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A HUMANE PSYCHO-POLITICAL ANALYSIS
TODAY'S
SCIENCE

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Yeltsin Is Ill Again Amid Concern He Can't Rule

President Is Rushed To Hospital With Ulcer; His Rivals Speak Out

By David Hoffman
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin was taken to a hospital on Sunday suffering from what doctors described as an acute bleeding ulcer.

This announcement raised urgent questions again as to whether Russia was headed for early presidential elections this year because of the leader's faltering health.

Although the president's term runs until next year, Mr. Yeltsin's bouts of illness have grown more frequent since he underwent quintuple coronary artery bypass surgery two years ago.

His political opponents reacted to the latest news by questioning whether he could continue to serve.

Mr. Yeltsin has not gone to his Kremlin office so far this year. He skipped meetings planned for Thursday and Friday, remaining in seclusion at a residence outside Moscow.

His spokesman, Dmitri Yakushkin, insisted that Mr. Yeltsin felt fine on Friday and late Saturday.

But on Sunday night the Kremlin announced that Mr. Yeltsin had been taken to the Central Clinical Hospital after complaining that he felt unwell.

Mr. Yakushkin said Mr. Yeltsin transferred none of his powers to Prime Minister Yevgeni Primakov, and that the president had a cheerful voice when Mr. Yakushkin spoke with him by telephone.

The spokesman said Mr. Yeltsin was in a good mood but disappointed to have to begin 1999 sidelined by illness. He insisted Mr. Yeltsin's condition was stable.

President Yeltsin, who is 67, has weathered heart attacks, respiratory diseases and, by some accounts, has been suffering in the last year with recurring periods of disorientation.

But the latest announcement marked the first time he was diagnosed as suffering from a stomach ulcer.

Few details were available but doctors said a test performed Sunday at the hospital confirmed the bleeding-ulcer diagnosis. The test generally involves inserting a fiber-optic tube into the stomach to examine possible sites of bleeding.

A stomach ulcer is a raw spot that develops in the lining. Bleeding from such an ulcer is not common but can be dangerous when it occurs, particularly in the elderly.

A sudden, severe hemorrhage can cause shock. Less severe bleeding, if it continues undetected for several months, can cause anemia.

It is known that majority of ulcers are caused by the action of a bacterium, *Helicobacter pylori*, which can be treated by antibiotics, although some ulcers occur exclusively because of overuse of medicines containing aspirin or ibuprofen-like compounds.

See YELTSIN, Page 4



A child clinging to an ethnic Albanian man Sunday as they viewed the bodies of Racak villagers found massacred in a ditch in southern Kosovo.

Hyde Provides an Oratorical Finale

Republican Sums Up Case Against Clinton

By R.W. Apple Jr.
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Summarizing the Republican case against President Bill Clinton in a speech evoking the shades of heroes past, Representative Henry Hyde, Republican of Illinois, said that the presidency could be "permanently damaged" if the Senate failed to remove Mr. Clinton from office.

"My solitary, solitary hope is that 100 years from today, people will look

Some Republican senators wooing moderates back home. Page 3.

back at what we have done and say, 'They kept the faith,'" Mr. Hyde, the chief prosecutor, said in an emotion-drenched oration Saturday.

The argument over impeachment, Mr. Hyde said one last time, was not about sex but about "the rule of law" — "one of the great achievements of our civilization."

He accused Mr. Clinton of fraying the essential bonds of trust between those who govern the United States and those

who are governed. And he asserted that having "a presidential perjurer" in the White House meant that "America can no longer be trusted" in the world's councils.

"Your judgment should rise above politics, above partisanship, above polling data," Mr. Hyde told the Senate. "This case is a test of whether what the Founding Fathers described as 'sacred honor' still has meaning in our time."

Next, it will be Mr. Clinton's turn to make his case through his lawyers, starting on Tuesday, hours before his State of the Union address.

Representative Charles Canady, Republican of Florida, brought the Republican case to a crescendo Saturday morning with the declaration that the president must be removed because he had "made himself a notorious example of lawlessness."

Opening the last of three days of the Republican presentation of the impeachment case against the president, Mr. Canady, like Mr. Clinton a graduate of Yale Law School, also argued that the Senate could not set a lower standard for the impeachment case.

Some Republicans warned that it may now be necessary to call an array of witnesses, including the president himself, Monica Lewinsky, Vernon Jordan Jr., Mr. Clinton's adviser and friend, and Betty Currie, his secretary.

Most of the Democrats were holding to their party's line that it was too early to tell whether witnesses were needed, preferring to wait until Mr. Clinton's attorneys have dealt with the two charges the president faces. Page 3.

See CLINTON, Page 3

NATO Holds Urgent Session After Massacre in Kosovo

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — Faced with a resurgence of civil war in Kosovo, the NATO allies struggled Sunday to devise a new strategy to prevent the volatile conflict in Serbia's southern province from spiraling out of control in the aftermath of the worst massacre since fighting erupted there 11 months ago.

NATO ambassadors met Sunday in emergency session at alliance headquarters in Brussels to decide how to respond to the massacre Friday of 45 ethnic Albanians by Serbian security

forces, who operate under the orders of the Yugoslav president, Slobodan Milosevic. But with Western governments wary of approving direct military intervention that could embroil them in another Balkan war, they abstained from any substantive action that could forestall the violence.

The ambassadors were expected to send NATO's chief military commander, General Wesley Clark, to Belgrade to warn Mr. Milosevic that Western governments were losing patience. But in the absence of any serious possibility of early air strikes by the Western alliance, it seemed unlikely that the American general's mission would produce any dramatic change in behavior by Serbian security forces.

The massacre came after weeks of escalating military confrontations between Serbian security forces and Kosovo Liberation Army guerrillas, who claim to be fighting for their in-

dependence. A U.S. envoy, Christopher Hill, has been laboring without success for the past three months to broker a deal that would grant the ethnic Albanians, who comprise 90 percent of the population of Kosovo, substantial political autonomy if the rebels abandon their armed crusade.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization suspended its threat of air strikes against Yugoslav military targets in October following an 11-hour peace deal cut by the Richard Holbrooke, the American envoy. The so-called "activation order" that authorized NATO military commanders to launch bombing strikes has never been lifted, but NATO officials say any decision to proceed with bombing raids would not be made lightly.

At the time, Mr. Milosevic agreed to drastically reduce the presence of Serbian security forces in the province and open serious talks on power-sharing arrangements with the Kosovar ethnic Albanians.

banian leadership. But truce violations have been mounting in recent weeks as both sides appear to be gearing up for renewed warfare.

Mr. Milosevic has spurned earlier promises that were central to the cease-fire arrangements by redeploying army and special police units in Kosovo that were supposed to be withdrawn. He has also defied the Western alliance by re-equipping Serbian forces with armor and heavy weapons in order to conduct military sweeps against KLA guerrillas.

NATO diplomats acknowledged Mr. Milosevic may have been emboldened by the recent preoccupation in Western capitals with the Iraq crisis and the impeachment proceedings against President Bill Clinton. They also noted that Mr. Milosevic may have felt compelled to shore up his standing with his own military leadership by ordering a harsh response against recent KLA attacks.

See KOSOVO, Page 4

A Trans-Atlantic Deal To Form Wireless Giant

Vodafone Wins AirTouch for \$60 Billion

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LONDON — The combination of Vodafone Group and AirTouch Communications Inc. would create the world's largest wireless communications company, with a presence in most major cellular-phone markets and the economies of scale to exploit them, company executives said Sunday.

Vodafone, Britain's largest mobile phone company, edged out Bell Atlantic Corp. in a bidding war for the nation's largest wireless company, the companies confirmed Friday night.

"The deal calls for Vodafone to pay a combination of cash, stock and assumed debt that values AirTouch at \$60 billion," Bell Atlantic, which had reportedly bid about \$45 billion, pulled out of merger talks with AirTouch when faced with Vodafone's higher offer.

The combined entity, to be known as Vodafone AirTouch PLC, is being formed in the largest cross-border acquisition to date, ahead of British Petroleum's \$55 billion purchase of Amoco Inc.

Vodafone AirTouch would have a combined market value of about \$110 billion and more than 23 million customers around the world.

See AIRTOUCH, Page 13

For a Weakened Japan, Yen's Strength Is No Boon

By Sheryl WuDunn
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Last summer, Japanese financial authorities were desperately trying to prop up their faltering currency. Lately, their hopes for a stronger yen have come all too true.

Even after the government intervention in the currency market last week, the yen is up about 30 percent from early August and remains so strong that it is harming the economy.

White officials have seemed somewhat relieved to see the yen slipping again lately, the strength of the currency has handed the government a new problem just when it thought it was on its way toward stimulating the economy with billions of dollars of taxpayers' money.

Coupled with other problems, such as a sinking stock market and a spike in long-term interest rates, the strong yen is threatening to stifle any economic revival in Japan.

"If the yen stays strong, it will offset the positive impact of the stimulus package," said Peter Morgan, economist at

HSBC Securities Ltd. in Tokyo.

The dollar ended last week at 113.950 yen, up from 111.030 yen at the beginning of the week but down from a nearly eight-year low of 147.35 yen in August.

At these levels, the yen is still strong enough to steal precious growth from the economy and further sap energy from an incipient rebound in other ailing Asian countries.

Economists cite numerous possible reasons for the greater demand for yen. Japan has a strong surplus in its current account, which measures trade in goods, services, and this often corresponds to a strong currency; and the nation's banks are bringing home their dollar loans and repatriating profits ahead of their financial year-end March 31.

The Japanese government has forecast that the economy will grow 0.5 percent in the next fiscal year, but it has also acknowledged that nearly two-thirds of that growth could be lost if the currency rose 10 percent. A stronger

See YEN, Page 13

Berlin Merges Visions for Memorial to the Holocaust

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

BERLIN — After a bitter debate over how to commemorate the Holocaust in the new capital of Berlin, agreement has been reached on a memorial that will include a vast field of stone pillars, a 20-meter high wall of books and a research center for scholars.

The accord, already approved by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder but still subject to passage by Parliament, blends long-standing proposals by the New York architect Peter Eisenman with additions intended to satisfy the new government of Social Democrats and Greens, whose initial declarations opposing a vast memorial caused an uproar last year.

Over more than a decade, the proposed monument next to the Brandenburg Gate in central Berlin has become a focus of competing visions of how best to invite reflection on Hitler's near annihilation of European Jewry. The fierce exchanges have above all reflected Germany's

search for a way to balance memory with a growing desire to look forward.

With the government and Parliament to move to Berlin this year, the vacant 2-hectare (4.9-acre) site and the lack of a plan to fill it had become an embarrassment, a hole in the heart of what Mr. Schroeder has called the new "Berlin Republic."

"I told everyone involved a few weeks ago that they could generate a lot more heat if they liked, but they could certainly generate no more light," said Michael Blumenthal, a former U.S. Treasury secretary who is the head of the new Jewish Museum in Berlin.

The building — an archive, information center and exhibition space — is to

be flanked by a thick wall 100 meters (330 feet) long that will house a million books between an exterior of patterned black steel and a glass interior.

The "Wall of Books" is intended to symbolize the concern of the Schroeder government that the memorial be not merely backward-looking and symbolic but also educational and useful.

"I am absolutely positive that this new project will now be built," Mr. Blumenthal said. "All statements pro and con have been taken care of. This is a superb synthesis. It is not a compromise."

See MEMORIAL, Page 4

AGENDA

Six More Western Tourists Are Kidnapped in Yemen

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — Two Britons and four Dutch were kidnapped Sunday in northern Yemen, the second kidnapping in three weeks, tribal authorities said. The British and Dutch governments confirmed the abduction of their citizens.

Leaders of the Hashid tribe said the six tourists were kidnapped near the town of Hawf, about 140 kilometers (about 85 miles) north of the capital, San'a. Gunmen stopped the tourists as they traveled in three cars along the road north of San'a toward Sadah, the tribal elders said. Tribesmen frequently kidnap foreigners to gain economic concessions from their government. Until the shootout last month, the hostages had usually been released unharmed.

Falcons Upset the Vikings

A 38-yard overtime field goal lifted the Atlanta Falcons over the Minnesota Vikings, 30-27, in the National Football Conference championship Sunday. The Falcons face either Denver or the New York Jets in the Super Bowl on Jan. 31. Earlier article, Page 18.

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WIDE BACKING FOR TURKISH LEADER — Bulent Ecevit, left, and his designated deputy, Hikmet Ulugbay, receiving congratulations Sunday after Mr. Ecevit easily won a confidence vote in Parliament, allowing him to take office as prime minister. Page 6.

Devalued Dreams / Jobs Vanish in Brazil

Economic Engine Seizes Up for Autoworkers and Their Foreign Employers

By Larry Rohter
New York Times Service

SAO BERNARDO DO CAMPO, Brazil — For 22 years and four months, Luiz Portfio Diniz reported daily to the bustling Ford do Brasil automotive plant here, where three car models are manufactured. But then, just before Christmas, he got the bad news he had been fearing ever since Brazilian interest rates shot to nearly 50 percent four months ago: He was one of 2,800 assembly-line workers being laid off.

Employees took over the plant Jan. 5 to protest that move, so Mr. Diniz still spends his day on the plant floor, playing dominos with his fellow workers. The stoppage means that Ford is no longer producing its daily quota of 1,000 cars, but the company has not moved against the workers — perhaps because car sales are declining so dramatically in Brazil that Ford has the equivalent of nearly two months of production stockpiled in storage areas here.

"Everybody wants to work, so all they have to do is give us the word," said Valdecir Aparecido de Souza, another laid-off worker.

"But if nobody is spending any money, management is not going to take us back, and we're not going to be able to find jobs anywhere else. It's a real mess."

The financial crisis that has shaken Brazil in recent months, culminating last week in a 21 percent devaluation of the currency, the real, is first and foremost a threat to workers and their families. But for that reason, it also represents a growing danger for the hundreds of multinational companies that have flocked to Brazil and invested billions of dollars in recent years, lured by a market of 165 million people that seemed to be enjoying sustained growth and stable prices.

Though all of Brazil is reeling, the once-flourishing automobile industry centered here in the industrial suburbs south of São Paulo, which produced as many as 2 million vehicles a year at its peak, was hit early and particularly hard. Car sales in Brazil, the seventh-largest auto market in the world, slumped 27.5 percent last year, falling from 1.64 million to 1.19 million, with Ford registering an even larger decline, 33.8 percent.

James Cain, a Ford spokesman in Detroit, said the elimination of a shift at the factory here and the resulting layoffs were driven by the conclusion that "we did not believe there would be any substantive improvement in the market in 1999."

The company lost money in Brazil in 1998, Mr. Cain said, and it indicated to Wall Street analysts at a briefing Jan. 7 that it was unlikely to earn a profit in Brazil this year either.

The automaker with the biggest operations in Brazil, Volkswagen AG, is also suffering from a sharp decline in demand, but last month it negotiated an agreement with its workers to reduce pay by 15 percent rather than cut jobs. On Friday, General Motors do Brasil reached a similar accord, laying off 1,000 of its 8,700 workers for five months but aiming to pay them 80 percent of their normal salaries.

For the 275,000 Brazilian autoworkers, once considered the elite of the working class, that means hard times after years of hard-won improvements in their standard of living. "Yesterday, I was dreaming," reads the bumper sticker on a car parked outside the Ford factory here. "Today I can't even sleep."

Mr. Diniz, who is 44, married and has two children, is a typical example. Born in the wild interior of the country



Employees at the Ford do Brasil plant in São Bernardo do Campo listening to a union official as they occupy the factory in an effort to overturn plans to lay off 2,800 assembly-line workers.

enriched northeastern state of Paraíba, he, like millions of other northerners hoping for a better life, came to São Paulo as a teen-ager, and by working hard and scrimping and saving, managed to buy his own house and car.

"I love Ford and think of it as family," he said as he and a group of other workers congregated at the Bar do Pascual, just outside the main gate of the plant here. "I grew up with this company, so being in this situation is enough to make me cry."

Recent years had been especially good, he and other workers said.

When the government let the value of the currency, the real, to the dollar in 1994, it forced a level of fiscal discipline that quickly reduced inflation from more than 1,000 percent a year in the early 1990s to single digits.

"Bringing down inflation made it easier for people like us to buy food, clothing and appliances," said Adailton Coelho dos Santos, 35, who works on the same line as Mr. Diniz and also emigrated from the northeast. "For the first time in our lives, we were able to figure out what our money was worth."

As a result, millions of Brazilians could finally afford to buy televisions, refrigerators, furniture and other consumer goods, secure in the knowledge that their monthly payments would not outstrip their wages. But measures taken by the government over the past six months, especially the

dramatic interest rate increase, have driven the economy into recession and forced consumers to economize.

"We have lots of members who can no longer meet their rent or mortgage payments, let alone think about buying appliances," said Luiz Marinho, president of the metalworkers union of São Bernardo, which represents the autoworkers here. "We have guys who have had to postpone their weddings because they don't have a cent to spend anymore."

FOR AMERICAN companies, the belt-tightening by working-class Brazilians is nothing but bad news. Brazil is the 15th-largest trading partner of the United States, and in recent years it has been one of the fastest-growing markets for U.S.-made goods, ranging from equipment for heavy industry to potato chips.

U.S. banks also have a heavy exposure here, in loans and other assets outstanding in Brazil, with Citicorp, Chase Manhattan Corp. and BankAmerica Corp. each reporting more than \$3 billion in assets here.

But the situation is especially alarming for the estimated 2,000 U.S. businesses that are operating in Brazil, the largest economy in Latin America. U.S. concerns have more than \$27 billion invested in Brazil, giving them a higher profile here than in other troubled areas such as

Russia or Southeast Asia, and weak results this year, now expected to be the general rule as a result of the economic turmoil, could affect their profit statements back home.

The sudden and dramatic downturn here raises the question of whether U.S., European and Japanese companies that have flocked here in recent years may now have too much manufacturing capacity in Brazil. As Pedro Keis Correa, a 39-year-old assembly line worker, put it: "Half of us are unemployed, who is going to buy the products these companies make?"

For Christmas, in fact, Mr. Correa had planned to buy a computer, mostly for use by his two children, ages 8 and 11. He had even obtained a bargain price through a nephew who works for a computer manufacturer and saved up the down payment that would have allowed him to buy the machine on an installment plan.

But when he received the layoff notice, he had to tell the children that "this is going to have to wait for some other time," he recalled. "I am trying to cut expenses as much as I can, and that means no more car trips to the interior on weekends or movies or candy bars for the kids."

Antonio Carlos Santos knows only too well the effects of decisions like that. For the past four years, he has parked every day outside the entrance to the Ford plant here, and from the back of his beat-up station wagon, sold items such as kitchen knives, watches, videocassettes and toys to the workers.

"My sales are down 50 percent in the past month, so of course I am very worried," he said Friday, as a constant drizzle added to his woes by driving his few potential customers indoors. "If the money of the workers here dries up, then people like me are going to go bust. This situation affects everybody."

In fact, Mr. Santos said, his family, too, has begun economizing, anticipating that the situation is going to get worse before it begins to improve.

"We're eating less meat and more rice and beans, buying cheaper brands of shampoo and soap and cutting back on our consumption of soft drinks, doing everything we can to save a penny here and there," he said.

It is not clear how the decision by the government to allow the real to float freely against the dollar will affect other companies. In theory, the long-urged devaluation should help Brazilian exports by making them cheaper, while also encouraging investment by making Brazilian companies available at bargain prices to foreign purchasers.

But economists have expressed concerns that the devaluation could set off a chain reaction across Latin America and the rest of the developing world, with country after country trying to gain a competitive advantage by lowering the value of its currency. In addition, the price of the components, raw materials and finished goods that Brazil buys will go up, fueling inflation and cutting consumer purchasing power further.

Even worse, thousands of Brazilians who purchased cars on installment plans opted for financing terms that peg their monthly payments to the exchange rate between the dollar and the real. Not only will they have to pay substantially more each month or try to sell their vehicles before they are repossessed, but the devaluation is expected to drive many potential buyers out of the market altogether.

"When the population is frightened and stops consuming, things can only get worse," Mr. Marinho said. "That's what we are confronting right now, a moment that threatens to exhaust all of the gains we have made."

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TRAVEL UPDATE

Moon Is Seen, and Ramadan Ends

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Muslims in Saudi Arabia and most other Gulf countries fasted for a last day from dawn to dusk Sunday, marking an end to the holy month of Ramadan.

The month ends with a three-day feast known as Eid al Fitr (Arabic for "the feast of breaking the fast"), which starts Monday in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. In many other parts of the world, the moon was seen on Saturday night, and Eid al Fitr began Sunday.

Ramadan ends if the crescent moon is seen on the 29th day of the month. If the moon is not sighted, the 30th day is considered the last day of fasting. No crescent moon was spotted in the skies over Saudi Arabia or the Emirates on Saturday night.

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices may be closed or services curtailed in the following countries, their dependencies and other entities this week because of national and religious holidays. The end of Ramadan is fixed in some countries and depends on the sighting of the crescent moon in others.

MONDAY: Bahrain, Brunei, Ethiopia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United States, Virgin Islands.

TUESDAY: Albania, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Mauritius, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan.

WEDNESDAY: Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cape Verde, Egypt, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Malaysia, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan.

THURSDAY: Bahrain, Belarus, Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Dominican Republic, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Uzbekistan.

FRIDAY: Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Israel, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Turkey.

Sources: Bloomberg, Reuters.

Correction

Because of an editing error, an article in the issue of Jan. 16-17 on a Spanish bank merger gave an incorrect name for the new entity. The name of the new bank will be Banco Santander Central Hispano.

Airport Security and the Human Factor

Errors and Oversight Are Common as High Turnover Hampers Screening

By Matthew L. Wald
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Screeners at airport security checkpoints sometimes miss weapons that undercover testers hide under their clothes, or they notice them but do nothing.

Passenger agents forget to ask whether passengers are carrying packages from strangers, or fail to react properly if the answer is yes.

Airport employees don't single out passengers who buy tickets with cash at the last minute or otherwise act suspiciously.

And ground crews leave airplanes unlocked and unattended, giving intruders an opportunity to plant a weapon or a bomb.

Airlines do pass most of these tests, Federal Aviation Administration officials said, intercepting hundreds of weapons each year, and potential terrorists face a high likelihood of detection. But it is difficult for outsiders to determine how well the aviation agency and the airlines are doing.

Last week, the agency gave The New York Times reports on 71 security violations at USAir, now US Airways. Concerned about the airport failure rate, the Transportation Department's inspector-general is testing security at

airports, and its report is expected to go to Congress in February.

Some wonder that the system works at all, especially at the level of screeners, most of whom are hired at minimal wages by security companies trying to land contracts from the airlines, which are responsible for security at their check-in desks, gates and terminals.

"For the same money, or more money, you can go over to Pizza Hut or McDonald's in the same airport and maybe get better benefits and get a free lunch out of it," said a federal official who requested anonymity. And a fast-food job has few worrisome responsibilities, he pointed out.

Heavy job turnover — often well over 100 percent in a year — also has its effects. At the Dallas/Fort Worth airport in 1995, a federal agent with a weapon strapped to the small of his back set off a metal detector. The screener then used a hand wand. An investigation showed that the screener, who was on only his third shift, had not completed his training and did not realize that when the agent *shoved* his arms, his jacket stood away from his back, shielding the gun from detection.

At the other extreme is the screener at Cleveland Hopkins International Airport in 1995 who failed to detect a weapon smuggled in by another agent. USAir

THE AMERICAS

Up for Re-election, Some Republican Senators Woo Moderates on Clinton

By Katharine Q. Seelye
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — It was a strange sight: Senator Slade Gorton, Republican of Washington, was offering a compromise plan that would have abbreviated President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial and avoided witnesses.

Mr. Gorton was only trying to please the many moderates in his state who support Mr. Clinton and want the trial over with. But his proposed compromise was shot down by his fellow Republicans in the Senate, and it infuriated conservatives in his state, who have vowed to field a candidate against him.

Mr. Gorton is part of a small but conspicuous class of 13 Republican senators whose political futures may hang in the balance with Mr. Clinton's. They have the distinction of being up for re-election in 2000 and representing states that voted for Mr. Clinton in 1996.

And these are states where voters now strongly oppose his impeachment. (There are six other Republicans facing re-election, but they are from states that did not support Mr. Clinton in 1996.)

This potential vulnerability makes these senators the prime audience for White House lawyers who are to begin arguing the president's defense Tuesday.

The pressure will be especially intense on Senate Republicans from the Northeast and the West Coast, where support for the president is the strongest.

Their future viability is not far from their daily calculations as they navigate the thickets of impeachment, each according to his or her political needs back home. Uniting them is the hard reality that approval ratings for Mr. Clinton

have soared during the impeachment process while those of the Republican Party have plunged.

And there is a concern, increasingly raised by Republican strategists, that a drawn-out impeachment trial could drag them down in 2000 just as it dragged down House Republicans in November.

The impeachment debate has become the Republicans' Vietnam," said Whit Ayres, a Republican pollster based in Atlanta. "It's a war fought for all the right reasons. But we've lost the support of the American people — we never had it — and in a democracy, you can't continue to prosecute a war without the support of the people. What we need is peace with honor."

This view is not universal. Some Republicans maintain that 2000 is so far away that impeachment will have little effect on the election.

"This will have zero impact, either positive or negative, on the election of

U.S. senators in a presidential year 22 months from now," said Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, who heads the committee overseeing the election of Republicans to the Senate.

As evidence, Mr. McConnell pointed to the early support by some moderates for calling witnesses, a stance that had mostly been advocated by conservatives but now seems the prevailing sentiment among Republicans. "That's a clear indication that the Republican conference, from the left to the right, is viewing this as a constitutional duty and a serious responsibility," he said.

Still, even before the Senate has taken a single significant vote — that is to start the week of Jan. 25 — impeachment is complicating the landscape for several Republicans up for re-election.

Mr. Gorton, who has been elected and un-elected from a state that swings back and forth between Republicans and Democrats, prompted the conservative

American Heritage Party to threaten to run a challenger against him. The conservatives were upset that he proposed a compromise that would have short-circuited the process and, in their view, not have punished Mr. Clinton sufficiently.

The American Heritage Party drew enough support last year to cause Representative Rick White, a Republican, to lose his seat, and it poses the same threat to Mr. Gorton.

"The Heritage Party will remember the proposed compromise, regardless of how he votes," said David Olson, a political science professor at the University of Washington. "I don't know what he could do to erase that threat from the right."

In Rhode Island, a Democratic stronghold that gave Mr. Clinton 60 percent of the vote in 1996, Senator John Chafee, a Republican, has almost the opposite problem. He faces little threat from the right but could draw a

serious Democratic challenge from the secretary of state, James Langevin.

While Mr. Chafee is a reliably moderate voice in the Senate, he surprised many with his early call for witnesses. Darryl West, chairman of the political science department at Brown University, suggested that Mr. Chafee was simply shoring up his standing with Republicans in Washington, who already view the senator with suspicion.

But Mr. West said Mr. Chafee would face more pressure when the time came to vote on whether to conclude the trial and then whether to convict Mr. Clinton.

"Chafee's problem is not the Republican right wing in the election as much as it is a strong Democratic challenger," Mr. West said. "But he worries about the right wing in terms of his position in Washington. The witness issue is a procedural issue he needs to finesse so that he doesn't offend the right wing."

POLITICAL NOTES

Going Off Script, Just for a Moment

WASHINGTON — Representative Robert Barr was at the lectern, reading a long speech — nearly every word and action in the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton has been rehearsed.

The Republican of Georgia was explaining the allegations against the president in light of the U.S. Code, sections 1503, 1512 (etc. etc.). It was not easy going. But he had finally emerged from the thick legal underbrush into a meadow of crystalline rhetoric and was about to wind things up, when suddenly ...

The slightly startled voice of Chief Justice William Rehnquist cut Mr. Barr off. "The chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa," Then Tom Harkin, a Democratic senator from Iowa, said, "Mr. Chief Justice, I object."

An objection! An interruption, without a single bipartisan task force to decide when he should do it.

Alas, this was not really an unscripted moment. Mr. Harkin and his aides had been preparing for this all day, waiting for Mr. Barr to utter a particular word, or all the thousands and thousands of words that make up a day at the president's trial.

"We urge you," Mr. Barr said, "the distinguished jurors in this case, not to be fooled."

There it was: "jurors."

"I object to the use and the continued use of the word 'jurors' when referring to the Senate," Mr. Harkin said. "Mr. Chief Justice, I base my objection on the following ..." He began reading. Another long speech, laying out a stream of constitutional rules. So Mr. Rehnquist issued his opinion: "The Senate is not simply a jury, it is a court in this case, and therefore counsel should refrain from referring to senators as jurors."

Call for a 'Day On'

WASHINGTON — Americans should make the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday Monday "a day on, not a day off" by joining a nationwide volunteer campaign. President Bill Clinton said over the weekend.

Mr. Clinton planned to set an example with his own community service project at a home for the elderly in northwest Washington. It is part of a drive by the administration's AmeriCorps national service program to deploy 100,000 volunteers Monday.

"To honor what would have been Dr. King's 70th birthday, I urge all Americans to rise to the highest calling in our land — the calling of active citizenship," the president said in his weekly radio broadcast.

All three cases set significant precedents for this case, Mr. Graham said.

Mr. Clinton's defense is rooted to a considerable degree in the argument that the offenses charged do not involve official misconduct.

On Saturday, his spokesman, Joe Lockhart, said the final presentations constituted "a clear concession and admission that their case isn't strong enough without witnesses."

The White House and most Democrats oppose calling witnesses.

Quote/Unquote

William Summers, a third-grader in Chicago, in a letter read by Representative Henry Hyde on Saturday at the impeachment trial: "I have thought of a punishment for the president of the United States of America. The punishment should be that he should write a 100-word essay by hand. I have to write an essay when I lie."

(AP)

Mr. Graham, much the folksiest of the 13 managers, was assigned to explore Senate precedent, and he did so.

He dutifully noted that Judge Harry Claiborne of Nevada had been removed in 1986, for filing a false income-tax return "under penalties of perjury." He noted that Judge Walter Nixon of Mississippi had been removed in 1989, for lying to a grand jury about his efforts to fix a friend's son's case in state court.

And he noted that Judge Alice Hastings of Florida had been removed, also in 1989, for perjury and conspiracy to commit a bribe.

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Away From Politics

• A politically connected lawyer who had had an affair with the Delaware governor's secretary was convicted Sunday of murdering her. Without a body or any concrete evidence of how Anne Marie Fahey died, prosecutors used circumstantial evidence to show that Thomas Capano had planned her death. He could be sentenced to death. (AP)

• Six months after saying he wanted to abolish the city's methadone treatment programs, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani of New York has dropped his plan to move 2,100 heroin addicts who are in city hospitals into abstinence programs. Only 21 of the 2,100 gave up methadone in a five-month experiment, and five have relapsed into heroin use, officials said. (NYT)

• Pfizer Inc. has filed for a patent on a nasal-spray version of its anti-impotence drug Viagra. (AP)



Three Democratic and three Republican senators appearing Sunday on "Meet the Press." From left: Christopher Dodd, John Kerry, Paul Wellstone, Kay Bailey Hutchinson, Orrin Hatch and James Inhofe.

CLINTON: With an Oratorical Flourish, Hyde Sums Up the Case

Continued from Page 1

a president than for judges who have been ousted in recent years for making false statements under oath.

Mr. Clinton is accused in one impeachment article of committing perjury in his testimony to the grand jury investigating his sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

Mr. Hyde's speech was a stunner from another era, a florid 20-minute throwback to the days of orators like William Jennings Bryan — moving to some in the chamber and no doubt outside it, benevolent to others.

Stocky and silver-haired, sometimes seemingly on the verge of choking up, Mr. Hyde pulled out every stop on the rhetorical organ, recalling Bunker Hill and Flanders Field and Normandy, Saigon and Desert Storm, the Ten Commandments and Magna Carta, Mosaic law and Roman law, the Gettysburg Address and the Spirit of '76.

He complained about what he called "massive and relentless efforts to change the subject" by the president's lawyers and he said it was a disservice to the House to suggest, as some Democ-

rats have, that "it has brought these articles of impeachment before you in a frivolous, mean-spirited or irresponsible way."

Finally, Mr. Hyde read a letter from William Summers, a third-grader in Room 304 at Chase Elementary School in Chicago, who asked him, "If you cannot believe the president, who can you believe? If you have no one to believe in, then how do you run your life?"

Mr. Canady and two colleagues on the panel of House managers, Representatives Steve Buyer, Republican of Indiana, and Lindsey Graham, Republican of South Carolina, sought to pre-emptively rebut arguments of Mr. Clinton's defenders.

Citing British and American authorities in a session that often turned the Senate chamber into a constitutional history classroom, they contended that the offenses Mr. Clinton is accused of — perjury and obstruction of justice — met the constitutional standard of "high crimes and misdemeanors" for impeachment; that missteps in Mr. Clinton's private life had led to crimes in his public capacity, that the Senate had con-

victed judges in recent years for analogous offenses and that if Mr. Clinton was guilty he must not be allowed to remain in the White House, as Mr. Canady put it, "in all his infamy."

The White House has argued from the start that even if he is guilty, nothing Mr. Clinton did justified the removal from office of a popular president, twice endorsed by a national electorate. It was that argument, which Mr. Boyer termed the "so-what" argument, that the three sought to nail on Saturday.

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Ranging widely, Mr. Buyer quoted Black's Legal Dictionary, General Douglas MacArthur, John Adams and, on the seriousness of perjury and obstruction of justice, Griffin Bell, a former attorney general and Democ-

rat.

Mr. Bell, he said, had reached the heart of the matter when he said, "A president cannot faithfully execute the laws if he himself is breaking them."

There are now at least 115 persons serving sentences for perjury in federal prisons, Mr. Buyer said. "Where is the fairness to these Americans, if they stay in jail and the president stays in the Oval Office?"

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Founder of Legendary Wall Drug Dies at 96

By Robert McG. Thomas Jr.
New York Times Service

Anybody who watched Ted Husted roll into Wall, South Dakota, on a cattle truck in December 1931, his wife and 4-year-old son at his side, would have needed quite a crystal ball to predict that by the time Mr. Husted died two-thirds of a century later, the governor of South Dakota would be moved to open his annual state-of-the-state address with a tribute to the man who became a beloved South Dakota legend by turning a small-town pharmacy named Wall Drug into the world's most popular drugstore.

Then again, hot, dusty and remote as Wall was and is, 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of Rapid City on the edge of the notorious Badlands, not even Mr. Husted could have predicted how far a pharmacist could go — or how far people would travel to come to him — with the offer of a free drink of ice water and a world-famous network of clever roadside signs and bumper stickers.

The paper that proved to be Mr. Lundberg's downfall was by June Machover Reinisch, former director of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction at Indiana University.

In it, Ms. Reinisch concluded that in an eight-year-old survey of college students, 59 percent said that oral sex did not constitute "having sex." The article will appear in the Jan. 20 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Mr. Anderson said in a statement that he had dismissed Mr. Lundberg because by publishing Ms. Reinisch's article now, Mr. Lundberg "has threatened the historic tradition and integrity of the *Journal of the American Medical Association* by inappropriately and inexcusably interpreting *JAMA* into a major political debate that has nothing to do with science or medicine."

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Or as Governor William Janklow put it last Wednesday, a day after Mr. Husted died at 96 at a hospital in Philip, South Dakota, 30 miles from Wall: "He's a guy that figured out that free ice water could turn you into a phenomenal success in the middle of a semi-arid desert way out in the middle of nowhere."

By the time Mr. Husted got back from putting up the first sign, cars already had started turning off and making the block a half to Wall Drug.

They have not stopped. Fired by the initial success, Mr. Husted installed signs along every highway in South Dakota and neighboring states, all proclaiming just how much farther a motorist had to go to reach Wall Drug.

In time Mr. Husted agreed to stick it out for five years, but after taking in only \$360 the first month and not much more after that, it began to seem that Wall Drug had been a dead end. Then Mrs. Husted had a brainstorm. Going home for a nap on a hot day in July 1936, she was unable to sleep because of the incessant rumble of traffic on nearby Route 16. It got her to thinking, she said, that if they put up a

little sign out on the highway offering free ice water to tourists on their way to Mount Rushmore, maybe some of them would turn off to quench their thirst and perhaps even buy something.

And they did. By the time Mr. Husted died in 1986, Wall Drug was a major attraction, drawing tourists from all over the world. During World War II it seemed that every sign saying "Kilroy was here" was accompanied by one giving the mileage to Wall Drug.

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Court Refuses to Grant Anwar Bail

Malaysian Police Return Him to Prison After New Legal Setback

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KUALA LUMPUR — An appeals court has rejected the last possible bail request of Anwar Ibrahim, who was removed last fall as the Malaysian deputy prime minister and jailed on charges of abuse of power and sexual misconduct.

After the ruling Saturday, the police bundled Mr. Anwar into a car that returned him to prison. Hundreds of his supporters outside the courthouse chanted "Long live Anwar!"

He denies the charges and says that he is a victim of a political vendetta by Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad.

"I have no recourse against an erroneous decision of the high court," Mr. Anwar said in a statement. "The Court of Appeal has virtually killed all my chances of making a fresh application for bail."

The bail rejection was the second legal blow in three days to Mr. Anwar. The first was a ruling to strike all sexual evidence from his corruption trial, which his lawyers said would cripple their case. The ruling followed prosecution amendment of the charges to stress his alleged interference in police work, rather than sexual misconduct.

His trial was adjourned Thursday until Jan. 26.

The prime minister dismissed Mr. Anwar on Sept. 2 and he was arrested soon after for organizing huge protests that demanded an end to Mr. Mahathir's 17-year rule.

Few people expected Mr. Anwar to be released on bail because his application was turned down before by a lower court judge, who said that Mr. Anwar might try to tamper with witnesses if he were released.

This was an escalation in a growing debate over demands that the surviving leaders of the violent Communist movement face a tribunal.

He also remarked that noise generated by hundreds of people who gathered

outside the courthouse every day to show support for Mr. Anwar had been a factor in the decision. "There are tremendous noises caused by shouts," Mr. Anwar said. "I consider such noise a breach of peace."

He added that if Mr. Anwar were free, police would have to deploy extra forces, which would be a drain on public coffers.

Meanwhile, in a message to Muslims preparing to mark the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, Mr. Anwar vowed to keep up his struggle.

His two-page message, dated Jan. 7, was circulated late Saturday at a dinner given by the Social Justice Movement, which is headed by his wife. The dinner was attended by the country's opposition leaders.

Mr. Anwar said his experience in jail had made him stronger and wiser. "My

mind and spirit remains free, although I am surrounded by high walls and barbed fence," he said in the message. "I reiterate my pledge to continue my struggle for justice, eliminate oppression and protect the weak."

He warned the nation not to be blinded by calls for unity amid so-called threats from foreign powers.

"Be careful of the plot to use calls for patriotism and nationalism as the wool to cover up corrupt acts and internal oppression," he said. "There are too many nominal leaders, who are cowards and greedy, trying to deflect attention from their crimes by spreading the danger of foreign powers to scare the people."

The nation should always be prepared to face foreign threats, but let us not get carried away and be careless against the real internal enemies," he added.

(AP, AFP)



Members of the Social Justice Movement asking Mr. Anwar's wife, left, for her autograph in Kuala Lumpur.

Zainal Abidin/Bloomberg

Hun Sen Backs Trial for Khmer Rouge — and Its Supporters

Agence France-Presse

PHNOM PENH — Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia has given firm support to calls for a trial of leaders of the former Khmer Rouge movement on charges of crimes against humanity.

But he demanded that justice also be applied to international supporters of the Khmer Rouge regime. "Nobody should escape justice," the prime minister stressed in an interview Saturday with journalists of Agence France-Presse and the French newspaper *Le Monde*.

"The Khmer Rouge must be brought to trial, but those who supported them should appear as well," he added.

This was an escalation in a growing debate over demands that the surviving leaders of the violent Communist movement face a tribunal.

The prime minister's call for an inquiry into

crimes against humanity during the 1970 to 1998 years of conflict would cover massive U.S. bombing of Cambodia, mass killings by the forces of Pol Pot, then the Khmer Rouge leader, and battles carried on by the guerrillas after the movement was deposed in 1979 by Vietnamese troops.

"There is the period from 1970 and 1975 — should we consider nearly 1 million dead to be a crime?" he said, referring to the years when U.S. B-52 bombers pounded the countryside in an effort to cut North Vietnamese supply routes to South Vietnam.

"We should find justice for those who died from 1970 to 1975, from 1975 to 1979, and from 1979 to 1998," he said. "The dead from each period demand the same justice."

Mr. Pol Pot died in April while detained in a jungle camp.

Deflecting criticism over a welcome he gave last month to defected rebel leaders, including a Pol Pot ideologue, Nuon Chea, and the movement's nominal chief, Khieu Samphan, Mr. Hun Sen declared that no amnesty had been given.

He insisted at what he called the "hypocrisy" of foreign supporters of the Cambodian rebels.

"Many people have proclaimed what is morality and law," he said. "If you talk like this you have to be transparent, and you cannot hide one fact that is intrinsically linked to another."

Analysts warned that Mr. Hun Sen's statements, the most comprehensive so far, could create virtually insurmountable obstacles to a trial. But the analysts admitted that the arguments were firmly rooted in the fact that Cambodia's years of suffering were observed by Khmer Rouge supporters abroad.

Despite a well-documented record of having caused more than a million deaths through shootings, slave work and starvation, the ultraliberals in the Khmer Rouge continued to receive foreign support after they were deposed in 1979 by Vietnamese invaders.

The Khmer Rouge found allies in the United States — fresh from its humiliating defeat by North Vietnam — as well as in Thailand and other Southeast Asian states and its long-term allies, China and North Korea. Britain was also reported to have given aid.

The United States and Thailand have called for a trial focused exclusively on crimes committed during the years 1975 to 1979 by the Pol Pot forces.

"The international community should not forgive and forget certain periods for their political gain," Mr. Hun Sen said.

INTERNATIONAL

BRIEFLY

5 Western Envoys Return to Belarus

MINSK — Ambassadors from Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Greece returned to Belarus on Sunday, more than six months after they pulled out of the former Soviet republic over a dispute about housing with the Belarusian authorities.

"I am very happy to be back," Ambassador Jessica Pearce of Britain told reporters at the airport on her arrival. "I hope we can get back to normal. We have found a working compromise which will allow us to discuss more important things."

The ambassadors had accused Belarus of breaking the Vienna Convention governing diplomatic relations by ordering them to leave their residences in a compound in the capital, Minsk, where President Alexander Lukashenko also has his official home. Mr. Lukashenko said they had to move to allow for urgent plumbing work.

(Reuters)

King Hussein Plans 'Review' of Nation

AMMAN — King Hussein of Jordan, preparing to return home after months of cancer treatment abroad, hinted over the weekend that he planned to carry out major changes in his country.

"There is no choice but to engage soon in a comprehensive review of our national course and dealing with all the issues and challenges that occupy our minds or obstruct our blessed path," he told his people in a taped address from his London residence relayed on state television.

Officials close to the 62-year-old monarch said he was contemplating changes related to the succession of the Hashemite dynasty. (Reuters)

Colombia Discovers Cocaine on Boat

BOGOTA — The Colombian Navy said it had found 400 kilograms (880 pounds) of cocaine on a fishing boat seized by the U.S. Coast Guard after a three-day pursuit in the Caribbean.

Drug-sniffing dogs detected the cocaine, hidden in 12 automotive batteries stored on the vessel, after it was escorted by the Coast Guard back to the Caribbean port of Cartagena, the Colombian Navy announced Saturday.

The Coast Guard seized the boat Wednesday near La Serrana, an island belonging to Colombia, said Vice Admiral Jairo Cardona. He did not say whether anyone had been arrested from the boat.

(AP)

For the Record

President Bill Clinton has again waived for six months a provision in the Helms-Burton Act that allows lawsuits against companies in Cuba using property seized when Fidel Castro took power. Mr. Clinton said he was taking the action "to enhance human rights and hasten the day when the Cuban people enjoy democracy and prosperity." (Reuters)

U.S. and EU Denounce Massacre in Kosovo as NATO Ponders Next Move

By Barry James
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The United States and the European Union reacted with outrage to the massacre of 45 ethnic Albanians in the Yugoslav province of Kosovo, with President Bill Clinton saying that "this was a deliberate and indiscriminate act of murder designed to sow fear among the people of Kosovo."

Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer of Germany, speaking on behalf of the EU, said that "those responsible for this act must know that the international community is not prepared to accept the brutal persecution and murders of civilians."

Yugoslavia acknowledged that its forces had killed dozens of opponents in fighting at the village of Racak, south of the Kosovo capital, Pristina, on Friday. It said they were uniformed "terrorists," a description it applies to guerrillas belonging to the secessionist Kosovo Liberation Army.

KOSOVO:
Urgent NATO Talks

Continued from Page 1

including the kidnapping of several Serbian soldiers, who were released from captivity just last week.

The latest upheaval occurs at a distressing time for the Western military alliance, which is trying to chart the scope of its mission for the 21st century. The new strategy is supposed to be unveiled at a 50th anniversary gathering of alliance leaders in Washington this April, when Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic will be formally inducted into the alliance.

"Our worst fears are coming true," said a senior U.S. policymaker in Washington. "Just when we need to concentrate our energies on delicate negotiations for a new mission statement, we are being hit with a new crisis in Kosovo."

NATO's options appear unpalatable in many respects. Since the agonizing debate last October, several European states remain reluctant to approve air strikes in the absence of explicit authority from the United Nations Security Council. That prospect appears unlikely given staunch opposition by Russia and China, two of the council's five permanent members, against any outside military intervention within Yugoslavia's borders.

Until the latest massacre, some NATO governments were inclined to place much of the blame on the Kosovo Liberation Army for stirring up trouble in recent months through provocative ambushes against Serbian forces. NATO officials say those attacks have further weakened any willingness in allied capitals to launch air strikes because, as the NATO secretary-general, Javier Solana Madariaga, has declared, NATO "is not prepared to serve as the KLA's air force."

Some military experts question the lasting value of launching air strikes against Serbian military targets without any intervention by NATO ground forces to enforce a cease-fire and disarm the combatants. But there appears to be little desire among NATO governments to dispatch troops to another Balkan hot spot at a time when more than 30,000 NATO peacekeeping forces are still deployed in Bosnia.

But none of the bodies seen by international monitors and journalists in a ditch near Racak wore a uniform. They included three women and a child. All had been shot at point-blank range, and some had been mutilated and disfigured. One elderly man had been decapitated. Villagers said the victims had been led away and executed.

Gunfire at Racak broke out again Sunday, forcing villagers to flee before they could bury the dead, lying under plastic sheets at the mosque. Serbia blamed the Kosovo guerrillas for firing on forensic investigators attempting to enter the village. But the U.S. State Department spokesman, James Rubin, said the renewed fighting was the result of a "provocation" when the government tried to send forces into the village.

The crisis placed the shaky truce in Kosovo in danger and risked leading to a regional conflict. Albania called for an urgent UN Security Council meeting as the former Albanian president, Sali Berisha, called on the nation to prepare for a "life or death war" for the survival of the Albanian people in Kosovo.

On Friday, the supreme commander of allied forces in Europe, General Wesley Clark, warned that widespread fighting could resume with the return of milder weather. NATO officials said that President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia had reneged on a pledge to seek a nonmilitary solution to the Kosovo conflict and had redeployed large army and police units in the province.

But the Serbian deputy prime minister, Vojislav Seselj, denied that Serbian forces were responsible for the latest atrocity. "Those bodies must have been mutilated and disfigured by the terrorists," he said.

Foreign Secretary Robin Cook of Britain dismissed the Serbian claims. "It plainly was not a battle," he said. "They were shot in the head at close range. Observers saw absolutely no evidence of fighting."

NATO nations withheld bombing attacks against Serbian forces because of a cease-fire signed Oct. 12 after hundreds of people had been killed in fighting and some 300,000 driven from their homes. The cease-fire was to be "verified" by 54-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. Officials said plans to carry out bombing raids could quickly be reactivated.

Kosovo is a province of Serbia and part of the fractured republic of Yugoslavia. Ninety percent of its population is of ethnic Albanian origin, with an increasing tendency toward secessionism by Yugoslav authorities.

After seeing the corpses at Racak, the head of the OSCE verification mission, William Walker, an American, condemned the "unspeakable atrocity" and called the killings "a crime very much against humanity."

"Nor do I hesitate to accuse the government security forces of responsibility," he added.

Yugoslav authorities responded by calling Mr. Walker an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency and a protector of the "terrorists."

The head of the International Criminal Tribunal in the Hague, Louise Arbour, planned to enter Kosovo on Monday to investigate the atrocity. She said the massacre fell "squarely within the mandate" of the UN court.



Ethnic Albanians fleeing from the Kosovo village of Racak on Sunday after fresh fighting flared between rebels and Serbian security forces while residents were identifying victims of a massacre that occurred Friday.

YELTSIN: He's in Hospital Again, This Time for Bleeding Ulcer

Continued from Page 1

At the time of Mr. Yeltsin's 1996 heart surgery, doctors said he suffered from stomach bleeding, which they attributed to aspirin he had been taking before his heart trouble were fully known.

The noted Houston heart specialist Dr. Michael DeBakey, who served as a consultant during the operation on Mr. Yeltsin's heart, was quoted by Russian television on Sunday night as saying he hoped the ulcer could be treated by drugs and without need for surgery.

Mr. Yeltsin's doctors said surgery was not planned immediately but remained an option if necessary, the independent radio station Echo Moskva reported.

Kremlin officials said Mr. Yeltsin would be sidelined for three or four weeks. This would mean postponing a planned visit to France scheduled for the end of the month, which was to be Mr. Yeltsin's first trip abroad since he became ill on a visit to Central Asia last year.

As in the past, Mr. Yeltsin's illness set off political speculation about how long he could remain in office. The 1993 Russian Constitution says that when a president dies or is incapacitated in office, the prime minister becomes president and new elections are held within three months. But the constitution provides no mechanism for deciding if a president is incapacitated. Mr. Yeltsin in the past staunchly resisted suggestions that he resign that presidency.

But there were louder demands on Sunday for him to surrender power. The most significant has come from Moscow's mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, a former Yeltsin ally whose presidential campaign is picking up speed. Mr. Luzhkov said last week that Mr. Yeltsin was "not active enough" and should step aside and call early elections.

Mr. Yeltsin's opponents in the remnants of the Communist Party have long demanded that he quit. The speaker of the lower house, Gennadi Seleznyov, said Sunday that Mr. Yeltsin should transfer key powers to Mr. Primakov now because he was likely to "stay in the hospital for quite a long time."

Continued from Page 1

Four glass-roofed tunnels are to lead out from the building into the field of pillars — once described by Mr. Eisenman as "a place of emptiness, a physically perceptible incision into the city and its history." The tunnels will also house periodic exhibitions.

"My memorial has won. It is intact, with the adjunct of a Holocaust archive," said Mr. Eisenman, who was in Berlin for the presentation of the new plan. "Beside it, you have what a amounts to a small building, a prosecutorial for the monument." The project is due to be unveiled formally Monday.

Mr. Naumann appeared elated that a compromise had been reached. His initial remarks last year about the monument — including a comparison of its monumentalism to the work of Hitler's architect, Albert Speer — provoked widespread bitterness.

Last month, Mr. Naumann had a first meeting in Berlin with Mr. Eisenman, who did not appear to go well, with the architect saying he could not make any compromises and displaying a letter of support from a prominent Ger-

man intellectual, Jürgen Habermas.

At the same time, Mr. Naumann came out with what seemed to be various half-formed ideas for a "genocide-watching center," a museum and a research center, possibly also housing part of the video library of the director Stephen Spielberg's *Shoah* Foundation. Once again, opposition was virulent.

But this time, after further talks among Mr. Naumann, Mr. Eisenman and Mr. Blumenthal to New York on Dec. 30, the project seems to have been well prepared and to have broad backing.

The plan clearly reflects the sentiments of both Mr. Eisenman

BOOKS

THE LOVE OF
A GOOD WOMAN

Stories
By Alice Munro. 340 pages. \$24. Knopf.
Reviewed by Greg Varner

THE love of a good woman depends, in part, on her willingness not to ask certain questions, as Alice Munro demonstrates in her new collection of short stories. The love of readers for great writers, Munro among them, depends entirely on the writer's mastery of her art.

Munro is indisputably a master. "The Love of a Good Woman" describes human existence with greater elegance and precision than she has previously achieved in her distinguished body of work. With magical economy, she sketches the contours of a life or a complex relationship, but it's a finely detailed portrait — with subtle shading and deep perspective — rather than a mere suggestion.

The pendulum seems to have swung back somewhat from the pervasive minimalism of much recent fiction; Munro, of course, has been a foremost counter-example all along. Her stories are probably unrivaled in their fullness.

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In most of these stories, however, Munro concentrates on girls and women caught up in dramas great and small. "Rich as Stink" presents the poignant and beautiful spectacle of a girl on the verge of young womanhood as she puts on a wedding dress. The way the material feels on her skin is made vivid in Munro's delicate and deceptively plain-spoken prose. In a surprising climax, the precocious girl's entry into adulthood is achieved with startling speed.

Like all great writers, Munro helps sharpen perception: in her reliable hands, readers are reminded of how uncivilized "civilization" may be, or how an act even as mundane as brushing one's teeth can come to seem "laborious and unfamiliar." She can illuminate "the peculiar threat of a china cabinet" and put readers in possession of pithy concepts such as "poisonous ci-

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That Munro can contrive so effortlessly to answer the question, "What use are people?" while writing about an abortion is breathtaking — and typical. She is a writer fond of counterpoint, of

correspondence and ironic coincidence. In "Jakarta" an aging widow can't shake the idea that her husband may still be alive, while one of her contemporaries — though he would apparently welcome death — hopes his ex-wife keeps him alive in her memory. In "Cortes Island" an elderly stroke victim laboriously communicates some surprising autobiographical information to a much younger woman, a would-be writer who is his paid companion, giving her a tantalizing glimpse of the world's richness of hidden detail.

It is possible to read "Cortes Island" as a parable of the creative artist, who in youth suspects that the world holds many secrets but must wait for age to reveal them — with the caveat that age brings the risk of an impaired ability to communicate such greater knowledge. To make this suggestion, however, is not to insist on one interpretation: To reduce any of Munro's stories to one simple "reading" is to do them an unkindness. They are richly prismatic, giving off different colors as their facets turn in the light.

Nevertheless, it does seem fitting to end by emphasizing how, apart from her pervasive concern with the nature of being in time, Munro does seem preoccupied in this book with the idea of knowledge as burden. This may be taken as an apt emblem of the stories themselves, which come to readers as a delight, first and foremost, and with much laughter, but with a weight that may become more and more troubling the longer readers live with the gift. A better book of stories can scarcely be imagined.

Greg Varner, arts editor of The Washington Blade, wrote this for The Washington Post.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

YOUR resolution for the New Year might be to do something you know quite well you ought to do: When the dummy comes down, think before playing to the first trick. Even experts fall into this trap, as witness the diagrammed deal from the National Senior Knockout Teams.

North-South struggled up to three oo-trump, and West led the *ubid* diamond ace. South played low from dummy and East won with the king. He made a shift to the club queen, attacking the declarer's communications, and South suddenly found himself in trouble: After winning with the ace, he did not know whether or

not to cash the club king. What he chose to do, wrongly, was to abandon the club king, cash three top hearts followed by the diamond ace. Then he led another heart, and West was on lead in the position shown below.

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West did the best he could to deal with the actual position by leading the spade nine. South covered with the 10, his third error, and could not escape defeat when East won with the jack and led the queen.

South erred in the ending by wasting dummy's spade 10. If he had won the nine with the ace and cashed one heart winner, he would have prevailed.

But he should not have been in this trouble. If he had thought longer at the first trick he would have found a plan that would succeed against anything but a very bad heart split. He should have won the ace of diamonds, cashed the top hearts and played a fourth round. The red-snuit situation would not matter with normal

breaks. He would have made nine easy tricks, just by thinking at the first trick.

NORTH
♦ K 9 7 4
A 10 6 2
V A K Q 9 5 2
3 A 9
♦ 10

WEST
♦ K 9 7 4
V J 10 7 3
A Q J 3
♦ J 8 3
♦ 7 3

EAST
♦ Q J 3
V 8 4
V K 10 7 2
♦ Q J 9 6

SOUTH (D)
♦ 8 5
V 6
Q 9 5 4
A K 8 5 4 2

North and South were vulnerable.

The bidding:

South West North East

Pass Pass 1 0 Pass

2 4 Pass 2 6 Pass

3 4 Pass 3 7 Pass

3 N.T. Pass Pass Pass

West led the diamond three.

Look on the bright side. There'll also be lots more cherries and watermelons in the future. Because at our agribusiness, Hoechst Schering AgriEvo, we aim to utilize biotechnology in improving crop production and protection for harvests that are more bountiful than ever. After all, the cultivated areas of the world won't get any bigger. But our children will. And it's their future that's at stake.

INTERNATIONAL

Mandela and de Klerk:
The Hidden Hostilities

New Memoirs Reveal Bitterness in Show of Amity

By Suzanne Daley
New York Times Service

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Mr. Mandela, he wrote, "failed completely to rise to the occasion" on the day of his release and delivered a speech in Cape Town that was "evidently drafted by hard-line ideologues."

Behind the scenes, it was a difficult union.

Nelson Mandela, now president, and F.W. de Klerk, his predecessor, negotiated the country's transition from white supremacist rule to democracy, then ruled for two years as president and deputy president, often clasping hands to offer an image of racial harmony.

In 1993, they shared the Nobel Peace Prize.

But after years of silence about the relationship, Mr. de Klerk has unleashed his anger at President Mandela in an autobiography, which is to be published Tuesday in London.

An account of the autobiography has appeared in a South African newspaper. There were hints over the years that the two men did not really like each other very much. In 1995 a photograph caught them shouting at each other in a parking lot.

But Mr. de Klerk never revealed to interviewers his inner feelings toward Mr. Mandela, joking that he needed to save some information for his memoirs.

Now those memoirs, called "The Last Trek: A New Beginning," give long accounts of bitter feuds that developed over everything from politics to whether Mr. de Klerk's wife could renovate the official residence they were assigned after the 1994 elections.

Mr. Mandela wrote his autobiography in 1994. It describes some of the same events. But it was published when the two were still in government together and was restrained in its treatment of Mr. de Klerk.

A spokesman for the president, Parks Mankahlana, said Mr. Mandela had not seen a copy of the book and therefore could not comment on it.

"It would be very difficult anyhow," he said. "This is biographical material, and a lot of times it really has to do with an impression."

Mr. Mankahlana said, however, that no humiliation was intended when arrangements were made for housing the de Klerks after the elections.

According to The Mail & Guardian, the South African weekly that obtained a

copy of the book, Mr. de Klerk's regard for Mr. Mandela began to slip almost immediately after he ordered the nationalist leader's release from jail in 1990.

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Former President de Klerk's memoirs are to be published Tuesday.

At first, Mr. Mandela was expected to move into the Presidency, a house used for the ceremonial state president under the apartheid government. The de Klerks were told they could keep the house known as Libertas.

But then Mr. Mandela told Mr. de Klerk he was under a lot of pressure to take Libertas for himself, as it was seen as the residence of the national leader.

"No sooner had we become used to this idea than he informed us that he was now under pressure from his senior colleagues to use the Presidency for other purposes."

The de Klerks were then given Overval, a house that had been used by provincial administrators. The Department of Public Works agreed that it need not be substantially refurbished. But Mr. Mandela insisted on seeing for himself.

"The final humiliation that I had to endure in the saga of the official residence was when President Mandela insisted on personally inspecting Overval to satisfy himself that the refurbishment was, indeed, necessary," Mr. de Klerk wrote.

Mr. de Klerk resigned from the coalition government in 1996, shortly after South Africa adopted a new constitution. For a time, he tried to remake his National Party into a multiracial organization, but with little success. He retired from politics in 1997.

The autobiography is to be published by Macmillan in England. The publicity director for the book in South Africa, Adrienne Antonie, said there were no plans yet to publish the book in the United States.

THE LOVE OF
A GOOD WOMAN

Stories
By Alice Munro. 340 pages. \$24. Knopf.
Reviewed by Greg Varner

THE love of a good woman depends, in part, on her willingness not to ask certain questions, as Alice Munro demonstrates in her new collection of short stories. The love of readers for great writers, Munro among them, depends entirely on the writer's mastery of her art.

Munro is indisputably a master. "The Love of a Good Woman" describes human existence with greater elegance and precision than she has previously achieved in her distinguished body of work. With magical economy, she sketches the contours of a life or a complex relationship, but it's a finely detailed portrait — with subtle shading and deep perspective — rather than a mere suggestion.

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♦ 8 5
V 6
Q 9 5 4
A K 8 5 4 2

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The bidding:

South West North East

Pass Pass 1 0 Pass

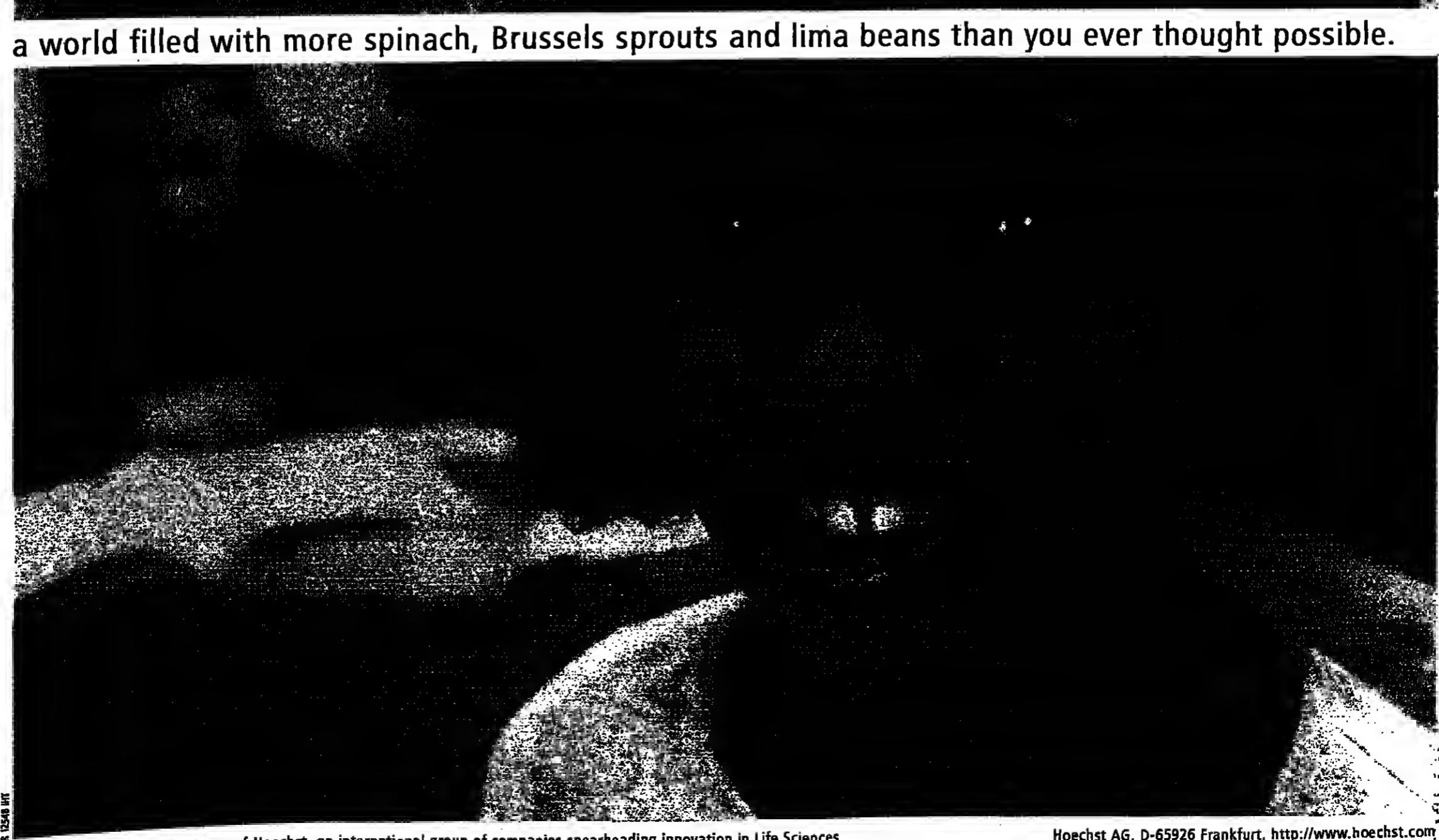
2 4 Pass 2 6 Pass

3 4 Pass 3 7 Pass

3 N.T. Pass Pass Pass

West led the diamond three.

Imagine a world filled with more spinach, Brussels sprouts and lima beans than you ever thought possible.



AgriEvo is the agribusiness of Hoechst, an international group of companies spearheading innovation in Life Sciences.

Hoechst AG, D-65926 Frankfurt, <http://www.hoechst.com>

In France, It's Normal, Everyone Does It - They Call It a 'Greve'

By Charles Trueheart
Washington Post Service

PARIS — Last week was nothing special in France.

Schoolteachers in a half-dozen Paris suburbs went into their second week without working to protest violence in the schools and meager resources.

Air France mechanics carried out a partial work stoppage at the Paris airports to express their displeasure over the terms of the new mandated 35-hour workweek.

Bus drivers in several southern cities stopped driving to protest working conditions.

Pig farmers in Anjou demonstrated about low pork prices.

Jobless protesters demonstrated in front of government offices seeking a \$600 bonus in their unemployment checks.

The French are accustomed to all this and worse. In the last year, truckers blocked highways, workers shut down the rail system and bus drivers in major cities stayed home to protest hoodlums and vandals on their buses. Air France pilots disrupted the opening of the World Cup soccer tournament with a strike. Students marched en masse to lambaste the state of their schools. Teachers stopped working to emphasize

the same thing. Not to be forgotten, retirees marched to lament their pensions and social security.

Librarians do it. Journalists do it (to rescue their big tax breaks). Doctors and dentists do it. Ski instructors do it (to shake their fists at the lack of snow). Internet users do it (to protest high phone connection rates). Cabbage growers and Cognac makers do it. Even Eiffel Tower elevator operators do it.

The greve, or strike, and the *manif*, or street demonstration, are so much a fact of accepted daily life in France that Paris's morning newspapers publish a map of zones to avoid because people are marching in the streets, or because

trains or subways are out running. One analyst recently put the annual number of strikes and other protests at 10,000, but they probably are uncountable.

"In Europe today, only in France do we accept the loss of billions of francs and blocking people from going to work or going home," said Philippe Seguin, head of President Jacques Chirac's center-right party. He is among the few who are raising questions about France's devotion to the nearly absolute right to strike, and the price the country pays in economic competitiveness for this indulgence.

After another autumn of strikes, Mr. Chirac made a proclamation mentioning

the need to ensure "minimum service" in public transportation and "effective procedures for preventing strikes." A poll by the Ifop agency a few days later showed that 82 percent of the public in agreed.

But this was a red flag. Mr. Chirac's suggestion was cold-shouldered by the Socialist-led government and many prominent people who share its thinking. The Communist leader Robert Hoc called it "a profound retreat from the democracy of the workplace" and a "fundamental liberty of the republic."

The spontaneous public revolt, seemingly at odds with the stereotypical authority-respecting, crisply mannered French temperament, has an ancient pedigree.

Modern French history has been shaped by public protests that went further than anyone had expected. The revolution of 1789 and the years of civil terror that followed, the revolutions of 1830 and 1848, the Paris Commune of 1871 and, most recently, the upheavals of 1968, all have contributed to a sense that channelling public aggression in the street is an accepted, even an obligatory, first step in negotiating change.

"This is how we make ourselves heard. This is how we know what we want," said a strike organizer on French television last autumn.

He was right. The habit of protest and work stoppage is addictive because the powers that be have a healthy fear that things will get out of hand. And the bosses, notably those in the government, regularly, almost predictably, capitulate in the end. "Under universal suffrage, you need at least 50 percent," said Emmanuel Todd, an anthropologist. "But in the street, a million is enough."

Former Prime Minister Alain Juppe said the bar was a little higher when he said in 1995: "If 2 million people want to take to the streets, then my government would not survive." They did, and ultimately, it didn't.

That fateful prediction came during the most remarkable recent example of street power, when a strike by public-sector transportation workers over retirement conditions grew into a virtual insurrection that froze the machinery of workday France for three weeks and permanently crippled Mr. Juppe's government.

What was notable was not the huge numbers of strikers, nor the millions of French citizens who had to rise at 4 A.M. to walk several hours to work. What was notable was the extraordinary public support, in poll soundings, for the comfortably paid workers who had caused the massive cost and inconvenience.

Stephane Rozes, an opinion analyst, says popular sympathy for any job action or public protest is explained by a shared sense of entitlement, a defense of acquired rights and benefits. It is the despair of reform-minded French politicians and the fodder for critics of the French system, but it reflects France's deeply felt egalitarianism, he said.

Strikes and demonstrations may seem so frequent as to constitute routine, but actually their number is declining. The number of strikes these days is about a tenth of their number 30 years ago. And the number of workdays a year lost to strikes, as computed by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, was 324 in 1997, a year when the United States lost 4,497 days to strike actions.

BRIEFLY

Italy Permits Kurd To Leave Country

ROME — The government declared Sunday that it had closed the case of a Kurdish rebel leader, Abdullah Ocalan, who was allowed to leave the country despite Turkey's protests. The government insisted it had dealt with the delicate issue in exemplary fashion.

Turkey denounced Italy for having allowed its most wanted fugitive to leave the country, a free man, and it vowed to pursue the outlawed Kurdish Workers Party chief wherever he went.

"An ugly story has finished," Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini told the newspaper *La Repubblica*. "And when all is said and done, it has finished in the best way possible." Mr. Ocalan was arrested Nov. 12 on a German warrant but was freed after Bonn withdrew its extradition request out of fear of unrest in Germany's Turkish and Kurdish communities. (Reuters)

Vials Are Recalled Over Infant Deaths

BRUSSELS — A German pharmaceutical company has recalled thousands of vials labeled as glucose after two premature newborns were given a lethal injection of potassium chloride instead of the harmless sugar solution.

A university doctor reported Sunday that the company, B. Braun Melsungen AG, was involved in a similar medical scandal 12 years ago. Police will investigate that claim in the next few days.

A Europe-wide alert to hospitals was sent out Saturday after two babies died within two days at a hospital in Leuven, Belgium. They went into cardiac arrest after receiving a solution from a bottle marked 5 percent glucose.

It was after the second child died that doctors checked the contents of the bottle. (AP)

Paris Presses Bonn On Nuclear Waste

PARIS — France raised the stakes in a looming nuclear-waste dispute with Germany on Sunday by saying that official agreements called for the payment of damages if Bonn broke waste-reprocessing contracts.

Jean Syrota, head of the reprocessing-company Cogema, said the accompanying agreements were as valid as the actual contracts and said France would demand "substantial compensation" if Bonn scrapped the long-term deals as it withdrew from previous plans to expand nuclear power.

"Those accords, published in the Official Journal on Aug. 17, 1990 after the contracts, have the force of a contract," he said.

"The two governments clearly stated they would not create any obstacles to the execution of the contracts." (AP)



MASKED ANGER — Protesters opposed to General Augusto Pinochet wearing masks at a rally Sunday in London. Judge Baltasar Garzon of Spain will attend a hearing Monday at the House of Lords regarding his requested extradition of the former Chilean dictator.

Ulster Peace Will Hold, Sinn Fein No. 2 Assures

By James F. Clarity
New York Times Service

DUBLIN — Martin McGuinness, the chief negotiator for Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, said Sunday that the growing crisis in the Northern Ireland peace effort would be over by the end of March, in time for the British government to return home rule powers to the province.

The Northern Ireland Assembly, a mix of officials of the Protestant majority and the Roman Catholic minority, is to begin debating on Monday the agreement reached by their leaders last month on the new political structures for the province. The leaders have set Feb. 15 as a deadline for approval. That would give the British and Irish governments time to change their laws to permit the transfer of power by the middle of March.

Mr. McGuinness, the No. 2 official of Sinn Fein, said the impasse would be ended by mid-March and that his party would by then have ministers taking part in the new government. The province has been governed directly from London since 1974.

But, significantly, Mr. McGuinness did not, in an interview on BBC radio, offer a specific solution to the problem that has impeded the implementation of the Belfast agreement, approved in the spring, that is to give the province's Catholic minority more power in the North and give the Irish Republic more influence in Northern affairs. That issue is the disarmament of the IRA.

But he did call for an end to the "punishment beatings" by Catholic republicans and Protestant loyalist vigilantes in the North. Typically, the vigilantes shoot in the legs or knees people who they say are criminals, which often involves Catholics shooting Catholics, Protestants shooting Protestants.

The crux of the issue is that Sinn Fein insists it is entitled to two ministers in the new cabinet-like executive that is to be formed in the Northern Ireland Assembly. Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, argues that the IRA weapons have been effectively decommissioned since the paramilitary group began a cease-fire 17 months ago. But the Protestant unionist first minister of the Assembly, David Trimble, insists that some IRA disarmament must begin be-

fore Sinn Fein may take the ministerial posts.

Officials here in the Irish Republic and in the North are hoping that the IRA will find a way to make a gesture toward disarmament, not necessarily the actual surrender or destruction of weapons, that will allay Protestant fears that the IRA has not permanently abandoned violence.

But in its New Year's message, the IRA stood by its refusal to disarm and hinted, in the view of many officials, that it could return to violence.

Further anxiety arose when the Northern Ireland police said last week there was no sign that the IRA was preparing to disarm and that IRA splinter groups were expected to make terrorist attacks like the one that killed 29 people in August in the town of Omagh.

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — After easily winning a confidence vote in Parliament, Bülent Ecevit took office as prime minister Sunday and pledged "to take Turkey smoothly to elections on April 18."

It is still considered possible, however, that powerful military commanders will pressure Parliament to postpone the elections. Public-opinion surveys suggest that the Islamic-oriented Virtue Party remains the country's strongest party, and the commanders want to prevent it from gaining more power.

Throughout the monthlong Ramadan holiday that began in late December, campaign workers from Virtue canvassed poor neighborhoods across the country, seeking support and distributing food and clothing.

In boroughs of Ankara and Istanbul that are governed by Virtue mayors, throngs of people assembled each day at sundown, when Muslims break their Ramadan fasts, for free meals provided by their boroughs.

No other party has made comparable efforts to win support in the upcoming election, intensifying speculation that

Virtue's popularity may be growing.

The military, which opposes any increase in the role of religion in public life, orchestrated a campaign that led to the collapse of the last Islamic-led government in 1997. Commanders have made it clear that they will oppose Virtue's participation in the next government even if it emerges from the election as the country's strongest party.

The military issued two statements last week underlining its opposition to the center-right, the departing prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, whose government collapsed Nov. 25 in a corruption scandal, lent their support Sunday to Mr. Ecevit. With votes from their supporters, he won the confidence vote by a margin of 306 to 188.

Both Mrs. Ciller and her bitter rival on the center-right, the departing prime minister, Mesut Yilmaz, whose government collapsed Nov. 25 in a corruption scandal, lent their support Sunday to Mr. Ecevit. With votes from their supporters, he won the confidence vote by a margin of 306 to 188.

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Not High Crimes

On Saturday, the House impeachment managers shifted their arguments from the facts of President Bill Clinton's misdeeds to the central question of whether, based on those facts, there is a constitutional basis for removing him from office.

The key assumption of their constitutional theory had emerged during the presentation of the evidence against Mr. Clinton on the counts of perjury and obstruction of justice. In essence, the prosecutors argue that perjury and obstruction, while not named in the U.S. Constitution, are so serious that they are tantamount to the offenses that are specifically named, those being "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors."

Representative Steve Buyer insisted on Saturday that "perjury and bribery are side by side" as offenses that meet the constitutional standard. He reminded the senators of Representative Bill McCollum's earlier presentation of a chart based on the federal sentencing guidelines. It showed that under a point system used by federal judges, perjury and obstruction of justice outrank bribery in seriousness.

Therefore, Mr. McCollum argued, the president's offenses belong in the same category as the offenses stipulated in the constitution, "and he should be removed from office."

These presentations illuminate the heart of the case. In examining it, we can see how it is possible to embrace two propositions that appear in conflict on the surface.

Like the House prosecutors, we believe that Mr. Clinton lied under oath and tampered with the legal process. But we also contend that he should finish his term because his failures are not of a scale to qualify under the constitution as high crimes or misdemeanors.

While we are not fans of the White House legal team, it framed the constitutional question correctly in its trial memorandum to the Senate. Removal

of the president should be reserved for "offenses against the system of government" such as a serious political crime or an assault on constitutional order or an act of malfeasance or abuse bearing directly on performance of official duties. Here Mr. Clinton is saved by the lowness of his conduct. His offenses lack the requisite constitutional grandeur.

In regard to scale and proportionality, the framers clearly gave great weight to the continuity of government. They were reluctant to disrupt the normal electoral rhythm except in the most extreme cases. The White House memorandum argues that the Senate must ask whether the alleged misconduct is "so malevolent to our constitutional system that it justifies undoing the people's decision" and inducing a "national trauma."

Mr. Clinton's lawyers say these charges do not rise to that standard, and we agree.

In the end, it is electoral continuity that trumps the House prosecutors' argument that perjury is perjury and that equality before the law can be asserted only by removing Mr. Clinton.

Our view remains that he can be indeed, must be — punished through censure in a way that affirms the primacy of the law. But removing him on these offenses sacrifices something too important — the orderly transfer of power on a four-year schedule — to accomplish a condemnation that can be delivered through other means.

Part of the genius of the constitution is its farsighted embodiment of principles of balance and proportionality. Read closely, it clearly demands that the ultimate punishment be reserved for systemic threats to the state, rather than the personal failings of a reckless individual. In the end, it is possible to believe every allegation against Mr. Clinton and still believe it better to let his presidency dwindle away than to distort the constitution.

— THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Brazil on the Edge

The painful thing about Brazil's latest financial anguish is that it represents the fire for which the International Monetary Fund's \$41.5 billion rescue package of last November was meant to be the fire wall. The IMF was trying to do something new and bold: to contain a crisis before it became full-blown. Brazil, as the ninth-largest economy in the world and the pace-setting economy of Latin America, qualified as a key country. The world was watching. But last week the whole IMF program threatened to come apart.

The purpose of the IMF was to support Brazil's currency, the real, and provide the time and space in which to right the economy by trimming subsidies and collecting revenues due. But Brazil's Congress balked on financial reform, and an important local state stopped payment on its \$15 billion of debt to the central government. This was enough for Brazilian and foreign investors to start pulling out their money. A currency devaluation followed.

So far, in the financial crises that began in Thailand 18 months ago, the

United States with its buoyant economy has paid a relatively modest price. But a collapse in Brazil, its 11th-largest market, coupled with contagion in Mexico, Argentina and elsewhere, could raise the price.

This prospect is beaving into view just as the first victims of this cycle of devaluation and debt default, Thailand and South Korea, profess to see a light at the end of the tunnel.

They got there not without an international hand but mostly by strenuous applications of responsibility on their own. This is the model that Brazil must follow.

No one underestimates the social pain, not to speak of the political costs that President Fernando Henrique Cardoso must bear. But the IMF's pre-emptive bailout represented a harsh but, in the circumstances, fair measure of what the United States and others could be expected to do. The dangers of a deepening and spreading of the Brazilian crisis cannot keep the IMF from hinging payout of the undrawn \$30 billion in the IMF package on Brazil's performance from this point on.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

Mishandling Pakistan

It was always bizarre that the United States held up the F-16s intended for Pakistan, a friendly country whose defense has been an American strategic concern for half a century. The sale of 28 combat jets, intended as a contribution to a regional military balance between India and Pakistan, had been agreed on a decade ago. Pakistan had paid upward of half a billion dollars, including \$50,000 monthly for maintaining the planes at an air base in Arizona. The Pakistanis had meanwhile embellished their utility to American policy by facilitating the aid that ousted the Soviets from Afghanistan. What happened, of course, was that American nonproliferation policy got in the way.

Pakistan, until last April, had not tested a nuclear bomb, although its arch South Asian rival India had. The U.S. Congress, in a well-intentioned but careless flurry of nonproliferation feeling, simply set aside the concerns listed above and said in effect to Pakistan: If you go nuclear we will cut off military exports. Pakistan, driven by its deep distrust of Indian intentions,

went ahead anyway. Finally, President George Bush had no choice under the law but to withhold the F-16s.

The pity of it is that American nonproliferation policy had an effect exactly opposite to the one intended. As enforced by a reluctant Congress on successive administrations, the policy actually contributed to proliferation. Holding up the aircraft weakened Pakistan's conventional military capabilities and hardened its determination to move along the nuclear spectrum. Similarly, the holdup contributed to inclining Pakistan to diminish reliance on uncertain military suppliers such as the United States and to tighten military supply links to countries such as China, less faithful to their nonproliferation pledges.

President Bill Clinton has now decided it was "not right" to keep both the money and the aircraft, and reimbursed Pakistan. That may take care of the financial account but not of the more important account in which American credibility, in nonproliferation matters and in alliance matters, is stored.

— THE WASHINGTON POST.

A Time of Governmental Gridlock in Washington

By David S. Broder

WASHINGTON — It is hard to imagine how Bill Clinton can push his stratospheric job approval ratings much higher. But on Tuesday, with his State of the Union address, he has a good chance to succeed.

Judging by the samples from his goody-bag that he has been handing out in speeches in the past weeks, he will once again promise Americans not only a balanced budget but an array of attractive mini-initiatives that his polling says are sure winners with the public.

The formula worked well for him last January, when a huge television audience tuned in to see how he would fare on Capitol Hill just days after the sordid Monica Lewinsky charges became public. He was never more poised or persuasive, and his promises were a hit.

This year the circumstances are even more daunting, as the Senate continues the impeachment trial. But it is the Republicans who are feeling the pressure. If they boycott the speech, they risk being thought sullen. If they attend but do not give him the usual welcoming ovation, they may look petty and disingenuous. If they join the Democratic cheerers, they look like hypocrites.

All this will make it seem as if the

president is in control. But appearances are deceiving. Mr. Clinton may be the master of the opening night ceremony, but his troubles have taken a toll. This is a weakened president.

Last week, Congressional Quarterly, the authoritative, independent news service, looked back at the 1998 session (the first year of Monica) and reported: "Even without the votes that made him the first elected president in U.S. history to be impeached, Clinton's legislative year has to be scored as a failure, if the goal was to advance a policy agenda. Virtually all his major proposals died."

Ever since Dwight Eisenhower's first term, Congressional Quarterly has calculated the percentage of roll calls on which the president's position has prevailed. In 1998, Mr. Clinton succeeded on 51 percent of the 154 House and Senate floor votes on which he took a position. It was the sixth-lowest score in the last 46 years. It was also lower than the sixth-year scores of Eisenhower and Ronald Reagan, who also had opposition Congresses, and even

lower than Richard Nixon's score in 1974, the year he was forced to resign.

White House aides point out that in the end-of-the-session bargaining over an omnibus appropriations bill, Mr. Clinton outmaneuvered the Republicans, congressional leadership and resisted (with a single vote) several of his domestic and foreign initiatives.

But the big items in his 1998 State of the Union address, the ones that won public applause, were scuttled: a major anti-smoking initiative; a patients' bill of rights; expansion of Medicare to include younger people; campaign finance reform; a boost in the minimum wage; fast-track trade negotiation authority. Most of those will be back on the agenda this year, but the prospects appear dim.

The 1997 balanced budget agreement Clinton legislative achievement.

The flip side is that Mr. Clinton has managed to stymie the Republican Congress from pursuing its agenda. As Thomas Mann of the Brookings Institution observed last week, "a weakened presidency has not produced a stronger Congress." Indeed, during the impeachment battle, the Republicans have seen their House majority

shaved, their standing with the public shamed, and Speaker Newt Gingrich and Speaker-designate Bob Livingston forced into resignation.

Last year, Mr. Clinton thwarted their push for broad tax cuts by insisting that the budget surplus be saved until Social Security's future is ensured — something that he will attempt to accomplish this year. He used his veto pen to block Republicans' efforts to enact school vouchers, restrictions on abortions and other parts of their social agenda.

What we have then is a standstill, a form of gridlock characterized by struggles between a weak president and a fragile congressional majority.

Mr. Mann and two Brookings colleagues, economist Robert Reich and foreign affairs scholar Richard Haas, argued at a seminar last week that in a generally benign domestic and international environment, the United States has suffered no irreparable damage from this situation.

But "caretaker" government has a cost: in opportunities lost, problems left to fester and needs that go unmet. That is a far cry from the kind of government Mr. Clinton set out to lead.

The Washington Post.

After This Stupefying Trial of the Century, Beware Those Geese

By Maureen Dowd

WASHINGTON — By the time we got to Bob Barr, I had become desperate. I could only imagine how the senators felt about having to sit silently through these excruciating recitations of the obvious and the irrelevant.

There is an undeniable appeal to the notion of enforced silence on the usually prolix senators, but the Trial of the Century is proving less than scintillating. It suddenly seems essential that we Americans figure out a way never to have to go through such a hideous, stupifying display again.

The Republican House managers were acting like ugly Americans abroad who think that if they talk loudly and slowly, foreigners will understand them.

We expected Republican congressmen to explain themselves, but they just kept repeating themselves, waving pointy pens, brandishing charts and helpfully pointing out to

100 of the top elected officials in the land that the list on the first two pages of the House impeachment report was called "The Table of Contents."

So what did we learn after these two "historic" days? Bill Clinton lied. He was alone with Monica Lewinsky and played with her sexually. He coached Betty Currie and enlisted Vernon Jordan in a job search for his playmate. He has a complicated understanding of what "is." So far, the Republicans have not pointed out that the earth is round, but the proceedings are young.

Kenneth Starr and the rabid Republicans keep trying to present the president's behavior as a deep, dark plot. But the more you hear them tell it, the more the business sounds like what it was: a powerful but weak-willed guy scrambling not to get caught in a deeply humiliating mess. This is, not

acting as prosecutors met to plot trial strategy.

Listening to Mr. McCollum say "genitalia" three times, "oral sex" three times and "breasts" four times in the well of the Senate, seeing the welling confessions of Republicans about illegitimate children and affairs, actually made me nostalgic for what the good old boys keep telling me were the good old days, when journalists looked the other way as politicians frolicked.

The senators have been sworn in as jurors, but the country has already nullified the jury. Americans think Mr. Starr's investigation was ugly and the House Republicans' impeachment was mean.

The House managers have been prattling about how no man should be above the law, as they try to cloak politics in the sanctity of judicial proceeding. Representative Bill McCollum of Florida even aimed his pointer at a chart of federal sentencing guidelines for bribery, witness tampering, obstruction of justice and perjury.

Any pretense of judiciousness was lost when Republican senators acting as jurors and Republican House members

acting as prosecutors met to plot trial strategy.

The surfet of sex comes with a surfeit of sanctimonious pseudo-oratory, as when Mr. McCollum rhapsodized about "a beautiful panorama" he saw on his drive to the 14th Street Bridge, "I saw this incredible number of geese, I guess in the hundreds, that were lined up ... They looked like they were an invading army. And I thought of the awe of this, the beauty of it, the awe of Mother Nature, the awe of God. And I thought also of the awe of the responsibility to our children and our grandchildren about what we are commencing today. This is an awesome undertaking for all of us."

The Republicans had better beware. What is good for the goose is good for the gander, and besides, those geese might come home to roost.

The New York Times.

Globalization Is at Work in Brazil and on the Internet

By Thomas L. Friedman

figure out what companies and countries will be worth in this new era of globalization.

In the case of Amazon.com, which sells books and CDs over the Internet, some people think it is worth \$5 a share and some think it is worth \$500. How can that be? Well, investors who have rushed to buy the stock have the basic trend right.

The trend is that the Internet is going to define how we communicate, how we invest and how we conduct commerce.

As a result, I believe there are

their Internet, the more they will want to get out and touch something, smell something and soak up some community. This includes Starbucks, movie theaters, amusement parks and shopping centers.

Whether Amazon.com is actually worth \$148 a share before it has even made a dime of profit depends on how you see the future. The Amazon.com bulls believe that there is a huge revolution about a politician's private life becomes ammunition in the sulfurous Internet wars, is enough to make the benign neglect of yesterday look like a democratic kind of disservice.

Now we have a soft-porn nation, where New York hotels feature an adult movie spoof of

Buy.com's founder told USA Today, he has no intention of ever making money selling books, but just wants to build up volume to sell ads.

As for Amazon.country, it has been trying to cut its budget and streamline its economy to make itself an attractive site for global investors. Brazil wants but it does not have the savings or the technology to reach the first rank, so it needs the global markets.

But to make Brazil attractive to global investors requires some painful internal reforms and a shrinking of the country's social safety net, which is proving politically explosive. And Brazil knows that if it does not do what the global herd demands, the herd will just move to Thailand or Mexico.

What Amazon.com and Brazil are telling us is that the next phase of globalization is going to be real bear. It is going to squeeze the profit margins of every company that does business over the Internet, which will be great for consumers and a terror for producers. And it is going to squeeze the politics of developing countries even tighter, which is going to be tough on their citizens and a terror for their politicians.

Thursday's 228-point drop in the Dow, because of the economic turmoil in Brazil, is just a small reminder that life on the real Amazon still matters, and it can, and will, affect life on the banks of Amazon.com.

The New York Times.

Really Too Busy to See Mr. Wei?

By Jim Hoagland

guided pragmatism, not hypocrisy or cynicism.

"They may want to avoid controversy with the Chinese Communists, or avoid coming under criticism from them," he told me on his visit to Washington on Jan. 8 to testify before the House Committee on International Relations. "They may feel they can accomplish more that way. Or they may just be too busy, as I have been told when I asked for meetings."

But, Mr. Wei continued, they will get only part of the story and little of the reality of China that way.

His case illustrates how quickly U.S. administrations, whether Democratic or Republican, capture and limit the vision of those who must carry out the essential demand of proving that the president and the policy are always right.

Here is a Democratic administration, nominally committed to enlarging democracy, playing up meaningless governmental contacts on human rights with Beijing while it neglects opportunities to learn from and show genuine support for the dissidents.

It is much easier to deal with fellow bureaucrats, however odious the regimes they represent, and to pretend that change flows from government, than it is to deal with unpredictable and inconvenient democrats like Mr. Wei or Alexander Solzhenitsyn, who force real change from below.

In our conversation, Mr. Wei made this telling point:

"The administration says it is working with the government in Beijing to devise village election procedures. Why not work with the democratic movement in China and give it a role in devising elections?"

You know, there are brave lawyers in China who support political prisoners with their own funds and careers. But the administration and U.S. legal organizations channel their contacts and help through the official Chinese lawyers' association. Those lawyers take the money and do nothing for it."

Similarly, the State Department is preparing to release its annual report on human rights violations abroad later this month without once having consulted Mr. Wei.

Mr. Koh, an Asian-American professor of international law, has been in the thankless human rights job at State only since November. He said he did not think Mr. Wei had asked for a meeting with him (Mr. Wei says he did) and he dismissed as "ridiculous" the notion that he would duck the dissident. After our conversation, Mr. Koh scheduled a meeting with Mr. Wei for Thursday.

Mr. Koh refused to say if he thought Mrs. Albright should see Mr. Wei at some point. And the expectation of the Clintonites that meetings with them should be initiated by an exile who speaks no English and is only recently out of a Beijing prison is a curiously passive approach for people who have blazed their own trails to prominent political positions.

CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Brazil May Have Deflected a Crisis, but Analysts See Stormy Year for Region

By Clifford Krauss
New York Times Service

Buenos Aires — Even though stock markets throughout Latin America rebounded strongly at the end of last week on hopes that Brazil's currency would not tumble out of control, analysts warn that several countries in the region face a period of extreme economic volatility, with a likelihood of devaluations, rising interest rates and growing unemployment through the rest of the year.

Along with the Brazilian market's spectacular 33.4 percent rise Friday, Argentina's stock market rose 12.3 percent, and Mexican stocks climbed 7.8 percent. Nevertheless, a consensus has emerged among Latin American and Wall Street economists that the region is facing a year of little or no growth, rising unemployment, disappointing corporate

earnings and sliding government tax receipts. Pressure on currencies throughout the region — particularly in Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, Chile and Colombia — is mounting, analysts say.

A weaker currency in Brazil, the largest market in Latin America, is bound to put competitive pressure on its regional trading partners.

Those pressures will only grow as the

INVESTING

devaluation and subsequent floating of the real announced last week help drive down world prices of exports that are crucial to Latin America's economic health — namely, oil, grains, paper goods and metals such as copper and tin.

In oil-dependent Ecuador, for example, interbank interest rates last week soared to 140 percent, and the central bank spent \$90 million in a desperate

and probably vain attempt to defend its currency, the sucro.

A report by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell last week forecast "a sharp deterioration in the outlook for economic growth in Latin America." From a projection of 3.5 percent growth for all of Latin America made six months ago, the investment banking firm now projects a contraction of 0.1 percent in the region's economies this year.

But while the economic picture is far from healthy, economists and government officials say, Latin America is not poised for the kind of economic and political shocks that have shaken Asia since mid-1997. Latin America's economies are not as dependent on trade as, say, Japan or Thailand, and the shocks from Brazil's sliding currency have not come with the same suddenness as they did in Asia in late 1997.

While Argentina came under the most

stock-selling pressure by international investors after Brazil's move, analysts said its banks and government were likely to withstand the shock waves, largely because its currency, the peso, was still pegged at par with the dollar.

Argentina's stability, economists said, is tied to the facts that only 8 percent of its economy is based on trade and that President Carlos Menem is committed to keeping the peso level with the dollar. That policy, they said, diminishes the possibility of a return to Argentina's days of hyperinflation and galloping devaluations.

Underscoring the success of his monetary policy, Mr. Menem on Friday called on all of Latin America to establish a common currency based on the dollar. The suggestion received no immediate support around the region.

"I don't want to paint too rosy a picture," said Donald Hoakins, the manager of U.S. Trust's Excelsior Latin

America fund, "but there is relief that Brazil is not going to try the impossible task of defending a partial devaluation."

Nevertheless, Charles Clough, an influential stock analyst at Merrill Lynch & Co., told institutional investors in a conference call Friday that the rebound in the Latin American markets signaled a good opportunity to sell Latin stocks and move money into Asian markets.

Many economists say Argentina is heading into a recession because of the downturn in Brazil. Merrill Lynch, for instance, lowered its 1999 gross domestic product forecast for Argentina last week from growth of 2.1 percent to a contraction of 2 percent.

The divergent views reflect uncertainty over how far the real will fall and whether Brasilia will be able to slowly cut interest rates to foster growth in the months ahead. Should Brazil be able to

stabilize its currency quickly, analysts say, its consumers will be able to resume buying Argentinian automobiles and Chinese wines, and the regional economy will resume the steady growth of the past several years. But most analysts agreed that the fallout from Brazil's crisis would very widely around the region.

Venezuela escaped much of the turbulence of the past week. But it is the country attracting the most concern among economists and market analysts, largely because of the low price of oil, which is responsible for about half of Caracas's revenue. Mexico is another potential trouble spot. Jane Heap, Latin American strategist at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, predicted, "You will see volatility in the peso." Mexico's currency in the past week alone has fluctuated between 8 and 11 to the dollar — the rate was 10.64 late Friday — putting added pressure on its stock and bond markets.

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending Jan. 15. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Risk Name Cpt Maturity Price Cr1 Yd

Belgian Franc

112 Belgium 64 11/21/04 116,8300 5.7800

British Pound

43 MSOW zero 01/14/02 7,0100

49 Amherst 4 zero 01/05/23 25,3750 4,7900

89 Future Mone 6% 12/07/22 105,7500 5,5000

113 Future Refint 0 02/06/02 105,8167 4,7900

122 Amherst 6 12/07/22 105,7500 5,5000

154 Washington 4 Fm 4,200 01/23/23 14,6250 5,2200

199 EIB 6 12/07/22 105,7500 5,5000

211 National Ic 104 04/01/03 57,0000 18,8600

222 World Bank 7 01/07/03 57,0000 18,8600

223 Nellist Hous 6 04/01/03 92,0000 10,3300

224 Fm Refint Hous 11,26/03/09 160,1067 4,9500

Canadian Dollar

174 Nordbonden 6 10/30/05 102,9867 5,8300

Danish Krone

20 Denmark 7 11/15/07 121,5000 5,7600

24 Denmark 7 11/15/07 121,5000 5,7600

24 Denmark 9 11/15/09 107,6300 8,2200

51 Denmark 11/15/01 111,6000 7,1700

53 Denmark 11/15/02 108,2500 5,5400

56 Denmark 11/15/04 116,6200 5,5400

61 Denmark 11/15/04 129,9100 5,2900

62 Denmark 11/15/09 101,9900 6,0000

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Helping the world communicate **BT**

INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune
BUSINESS/FINANCE

MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 1999

Helping the world communicate **BT**

PAGE 11

EU's Goal For Budgets Threatened

Meeting Due to Approve Austria's Plan for Deficits

Bloomberg News

BRUSSELS — European Union finance ministers will give the go-ahead Monday for Austria to continue posting budget deficits, an indication that the 15-nation bloc will abandon the goal of balanced budgets to combat the deepening economic slowdown, EU officials said Sunday.

Although Austria's four-year deficit limitation plan was criticized as being "very modest," a communiqué drafted for the ministers' meeting, which begins Monday, endorses the plan as "fully in line" with EU objectives. Austria also escapes criticism for dropping the pursuit of a balanced budget by 2002.

Europe is dependent on brisk economic growth to keep its new 11-nation currency, the euro, popular and to tolerate some deficit spending "as long as there is no real dramatic, 180-degree turn in fiscal trends quickly," said Allan Sanderson, editor of Frankfurt Money Strategist.

The case of Austria, which accounts for 3 percent of the euro zone's economy, reflects the determination of Europe's revitalized center-left governments to prop up their economies as sagging export demand threatens to turn slowdown into a full-scale recession.

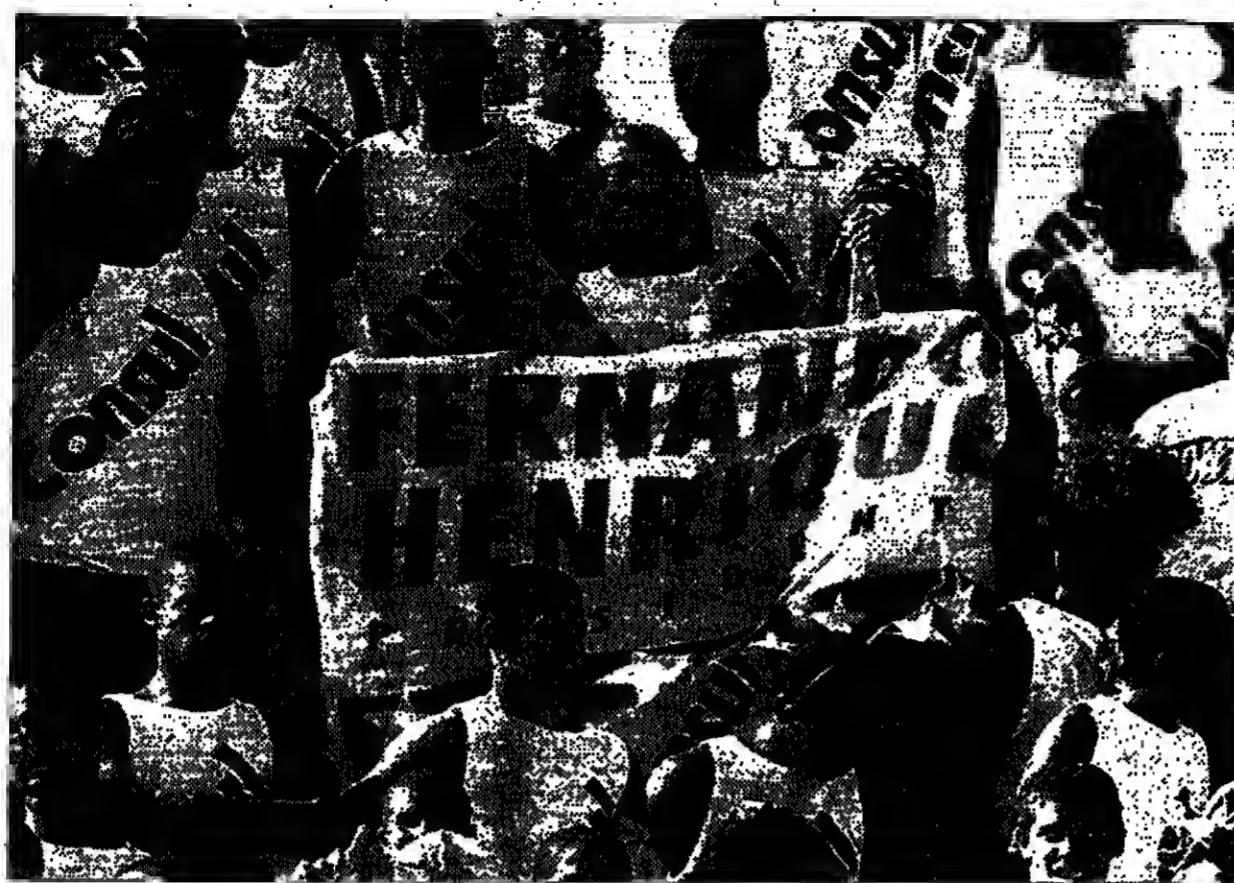
The bloc's largest economy, Germany, either stagnated or contracted in the final months of 1998, analysts said. Last week after the German government released a full-year estimate, Italy on Friday reported a greater-than-expected 1.5 percent decline in industrial production in November.

Analysts said the report card on Austria could set a precedent when the EU reviewed nine more budgets by mid-March. Germany and France, for example, have also renounced the goal of eliminating deficits by 2002, while Italy's projections reach as far as 2001.

Austria set a target of reducing its deficit to 1.4 percent of gross domestic product by 2002 from 2.2 percent last year.

Separately, EU officials were upbeat as a two-day meeting with Asian finance ministers ended Saturday in Frankfurt, saying that the worst of the Asian crisis was over. At the same time, however, concern grew about the latest trouble spot, Brazil, which let its currency sink last week. About 6 percent of EU exports go to Latin America.

Finance ministers also said they had discussed the possibility of pegging Asian money to a basket of international currencies, including the euro.



Fans supporting President Fernando Henrique Cardoso during a beach soccer match Sunday in Rio de Janeiro.

Demise of Currency Plan Revives Fears of Inflation

By Diana Jean Schemo
New York Times Service

RIO DE JANEIRO — On the trading floor of the Sao Paulo stock exchange, it led to a breathtaking buying spree in Washington, officials were relieved.

But for most of Brazil, the government's decision to stop protecting the currency that beat hyperinflation marked the end of a much-celebrated monetary plan that promised to transform Brazil into a modern nation.

The dream has been personified by President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, a multilingual former sociology professor and finance minister who has roamed world capitals and financial centers for four years selling his vision of a modern Brazil intent on reform and backed by a stable currency known as the real.

He told Brazilians, the majority of whom had never lived without runaway prices, that inflation was the cruellest tax of all, striking the poor, whose salaries lost value by the hour. It complicated long-term investments and planning, so industry failed to modernize, instead relying on trade barriers to keep out cheaper imports. Brazilians voted him president twice, making him the first to be re-elected to his office, overwhelmingly on the strength of his Real Plan's success at beating inflation.

The immediate reaction was frenzied buying on the stock market, which gave the Bovespa index its second-biggest rise in a single day: 33.4 percent.

Now, while economists and industrialists debate the size of price increases that will probably hit the stores this week and the possible nature of the "Real Plan II," there is little disagreement about the cause of Brazil's current failure.

The Real Plan founded on the same rocks that had sunk a half-dozen other plans to transform Brazil over the past 15 years: the government's inability to get reform efforts past vested interests that had benefits and breaks Brazil could not afford.

The rise in the stock market Friday reflected relief that Brazil would no

Brazil an untapped market of 160 million people for everything from telephones to refrigerators and a potentially perfect base for exports to the rest of South America. Direct foreign investment, \$2 billion at the start of the Real Plan, totaled \$36 billion by last year.

On Friday, it was a troubled Mr. Cardoso who stood before his nation for just two and a half minutes to say that he had done all he could to protect the real by intervening on currency markets but could no longer spend foreign reserves that had dwindled to \$30 billion from \$75 billion in five months. The real would be free to float on world markets.

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The rise in the stock market Friday reflected relief that Brazil would no

longer drain its foreign reserves to bolster its currency, but there was a sense of betrayal on Wall Street among those who had believed Brazil's leaders when they ruled out devaluation time and again. Many wondered what other elements of his vision Mr. Cardoso would be surrendering.

The Cardoso administration has made important progress in modernizing Brazil's economy. It pushed through measures to force government to lay off public workers if a state's payroll exceeded 60 percent of its budget, and it has had some success in pushing through laws that should reduce the pension deficit somewhat. It has trimmed the role of government by privatizing state-owned companies and cleaned up state-owned banks used ostentatiously as political funding engines by state governors.

But the heart of the Real Plan, indeed its *raison d'être*, according to the Brazilian government's letter of intent to the International Monetary Fund, lay

in its capacity to fight inflation that topped 2,500 percent a year before the plan was created in July 1994 and that successive Brazilian administrations over the previous 40 years had proved powerless to shake.

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From a certain economic point of view, the government has become a group of characters in search of a play," said Alexandre Barros, a political consultant based in Brasilia, the nation's capital. "They had the play of the Real Plan, based on some premises, but those premises are not valid anymore; so they have to find another play to replace it."

on the IMF-organized economic program that Brazil agreed in November. Brazil agreed to austerity measures in return for a \$41.5 billion rescue plan by rich industrial nations that was intended to prevent Brazil from following Russia into a financial maelstrom.

The plan had succeeded in bolstering confidence in the real until the governor of the third-largest Brazilian state, Minas Gerais, scared investors this month by declaring a 90-day moratorium on debt payments to the federal government.

The aide to Mr. Malan said the government might ask the IMF to speed up the second disbursement from the international rescue package, \$4.5 billion due at the end of February. The Fund said in December that it was prepared to pay out the disbursement sooner if Brazil requested it.

Faced with a renewed run on the currency, Brazil tried a controlled devaluation Wednesday; on Friday it stopped intervening to prop up the real, which had been limited to a narrow range against the dollar since 1994. The dollar settled at 1.495 reals by the end of the day, up from 1.313 reals Thursday.

But dollar outflows from Brazil slowed Friday and shares soared nearly 33 percent on the Sao Paulo stock market as investors saw that the currency would not tumble out of control.

"You saw what happened. There was no big run," Mr. Malan told reporters on arrival Sunday in Washington.

"It was a positive step," he said.

Mr. Malan said the central bank would announce new currency exchange rules Monday in Brasilia.

The alternatives range from a permanently floating rate to a currency board like the one Argentina adopted successfully in 1991 — a rigid regime that pegs the currency firmly one-to-one to the dollar. A middle road is a new rate loosely pegged to the dollar like the one abandoned Friday, but with wider ranges for the real to fluctuate in.

Analysts said Brazil would have to move faster to put its public accounts in order by passing fiscal reforms that were delayed in Congress. But they said Brazil did not need to ask for more funds from the IMF, because it had used hardly any of the \$41.5 billion package.

(Reuters, Bloomberg)

Brazil Seeks Support For Its Devaluation

Finance Chief Meets U.S. and IMF Officials

Coupled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — Finance Minister Pedro Malan of Brazil met with international financial officials over the weekend to seek their endorsement of a decision to allow the Brazilian currency, the real, to fall in value.

Mr. Malan was due to meet the deputy U.S. Treasury secretary, Lawrence Summers, on Sunday after meeting Saturday with Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund. Mr. Camdessus has postponed a scheduled trip to Brazil to deal with the crisis.

An aide to Mr. Malan said the officials were discussing the decision Friday to give in to market pressure and let the real float freely, as well as the impact that the devaluation would have on Brazil, the eighth-largest economy in the world.

"Brazil came to explain and try to obtain support for the changes made this week," the aide said.

He said the talks also covered the impact that a devalued real would have

CYBERSCAPE

Shoddy Service Clicks Off Internet Shoppers

By Bob Tedeschi
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — If on-line retailers steamed all the way into the spotlight during the past holiday season, one thing is clear: They crushed a few toes along the way.

Consumers have long lamented the state of customer service on-line but perhaps never as vociferously as in the past two months. Stories abound of vendors that shipped late, sent the wrong product and then ignored complaints or that required customers to pay the cost of returning goods and then tacked on restocking charges.

And then there is the loathsome "auto response" electronic-mail reply, with advice on everything but what the customer asked about.

Asked to sum up on-line customer service in a word, David Cooperstein, senior analyst with Forrester Research, an Internet consulting firm, responded: "Pathetic."

Web sites have the powerful advantage of making companies seem accessible and easy to interact with. It is an appearance that all kinds of companies, not just retailers, can have trouble living up to.

Brightware, an e-mail software company, reported last week that it had tried contacting the 100 largest U.S. public companies by e-mail.

Twenty-six either did not accept e-mail or made it so difficult to find the e-mail forms on their Web sites that the surveyors gave up trying. Of the remainder, only 15 responded within three hours; 10 did not reply at all.

Matthew Garelick of Somerville, Massachusetts, knows the frustration of unrequited e-mail. In early December he ordered the movie "Out of Sight" on digital videodisk from Bigstar Entertainment, an on-line movie retailer. From Dec. 28 to Dec. 30, Mr. Garelick e-mailed Bigstar three times asking why the movie had not arrived. He finally got the disk in January.

Having a number to call was small comfort to Duke Nguyen of Cincinnati. Mr. Nguyen said he ordered three items from the Internet site of Intuit Corp. in early December and then tried to change his order by phone. "Every time, after 20 or 30 minutes of waiting, I gave up," he said.

He tried faxing in his order change, but the original items were delivered to him. "Finally, I called and just put on my speaker phone while I waited," he said. After an hour someone answered and he was able to arrange a return. But then Intuit credited him for less than the full value of the goods, he said.

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NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

**Consolidated prices for all shares traded
during week ended Friday, January 15**

Continued on Page 15

Term Capital

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Azerbaijan Leader's Illness Clouds Oil-Rich Region's Prospects

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

ISTANBUL — One of the key figures in the multibillion-dollar Caspian energy boom, President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan, fell ill and was flown Sunday to a hospital in Turkey.

A spokesman for the Health Ministry in Azerbaijan said Mr. Aliyev, 75, was suffering from bronchitis and a viral infection.

The Reuters news agency quoted an unidentified aide to Mr. Aliyev as saying he had "a problem with his heart."

That was disputed, however, by Mayor Rafael Alakbarov of Baku, the Azerbaijani capital. He said Mr. Aliyev had "a bad cold" and would remain in Turkey "not more than one week."

Mr. Aliyev arrived in Ankara aboard a private jet sent to Baku by President

Suleyman Demirel of Turkey, a close ally. Mr. Demirel met him at the Ankara airport and joined the procession that took him to a military hospital.

Since rising to power in 1993, Mr. Aliyev has ruled Azerbaijan virtually on his own, making even the smallest decisions. His departure or extended absence from the political scene could have profound consequences for the region.

Azerbaijan is the center of an oil and gas bonanza that has brought tens of billions of dollars in foreign investment to the Caspian region and made it an object of intense geopolitical competition.

"Aliyev is the one who has created the fertile environment for investment here, so should something happen to him, everyone is going to hope that what he laid down will continue," Igor Efimoff, president of Pennzoil Caspian

Corp., said in a telephone interview from Baku. "People are likely to be very nervous until things become clear."

In addition to his role in encouraging foreign investment, Mr. Aliyev has shrewdly balanced the pressures exerted on Azerbaijan by outside powers. He has favored the United States and the West, much to the displeasure of some powerful figures in Russia, who would like to bring Azerbaijan back under Moscow's control.

"Aliyev's replacement with a leader more amenable to Russian interests would alter the strategic situation in the region almost overnight," two specialists on Caspian affairs, Michael Croissant and Cynthia Croissant, wrote in a recent study. "Aliyev's departure would thus cast serious doubt on Azerbaijan's prospects for remaining an independent state."

Azerbaijanis re-elected Mr. Aliyev to a second five-year term in October. Foreign observers declared the election unfair because opposition figures had been denied free access to the media and, in at least one case, assaulted by police when they sought to hold a rally in Baku.

Few, however, doubted that Mr. Aliyev would have won even if the election had been completely free.

Officials in Baku said the president of the rubber-stamp Parliament, Murtuz Alakbarov, would run the country while Mr. Aliyev was away.

Human-rights groups and foreign diplomats have been urging Mr. Aliyev to establish procedures for an orderly succession, but he has steadfastly refused to do so, apparently fearing that anyone he publicly anoints as a successor might seek to depose him.

As a result, it was unclear who might

emerge if Mr. Aliyev is unable to return to Baku soon. One opposition journalist, Shahin Abbasov, predicted in an interview several months ago that the post-Aliyev period would be characterized by "a breakdown in national unity as competing economic groups fight for power and access to the oil wealth."

Mr. Aliyev spent three months in a Moscow clinic in 1987, when he was a member of the Soviet Politburo. He said later that doctors had told him he had suffered a heart attack but that he did not believe them.

"He's extremely important; there's no doubt about that," said Brian Chapman, a Baku-based investment analyst. "Before he came to power, you really had chaos and disorder in Azerbaijan. The big issue is whether the prosperity and peace that he's brought in his tenure have taken root."

SHORT COVER

Nissan Denies Report Of Offer From Renault

TOKYO (Bloomberg) — Nissan Motor Co. said it would "seriously consider" an offer by Renault SA to buy a stake but denied a published report that the No. 2 French carmaker had bid for 20 percent of the second-largest Japanese automaker.

"Our company hasn't received an offer for a capital alliance from Renault," said Kenichi Tsuboi, a Nissan spokesman. "We'll seriously consider it if we do receive such an offer."

According to a string of press reports, Nissan is in negotiations to forge closer ties with three rivals and may announce a partner by the end of the month. Nissan is in talks with Renault, DaimlerChrysler AG and Ford Motor Co. to form an alliance to develop future models, the British Sunday newspaper The Observer has reported.

Japan Insurers to Link Assets Before Merger

TOKYO (Bloomberg) — Taiyo Mutual Life Insurance Co. and Daido Life Insurance Co. said Sunday that they would jointly provide investment management systems, product development and other services ahead of a public offering and merger.

The combined assets of the two insurers would form the fifth-largest Japanese insurer.

Boeing to Cut Output Of Combat Aircraft

SEATTLE (Bloomberg) — Boeing Co., the world's biggest aircraft maker, plans to cut F-15 production almost in half by November in a move that could lead to hundreds of job cuts at a St. Louis plant as orders drop.

The cuts are likely to total fewer than 1,000 of the program's 5,000 employees, a person familiar with the matter said.

A Boeing spokesman, Dennis Kline, declined to comment, though he confirmed that Boeing plans to cut F-15 production to two a month by November from three-and-a-half now. The fighter program brings Boeing about \$1 billion in annual revenue.

The plan is intended to keep production of the long-range fighter from exceeding orders. Fewer nations need it following the Cold War, and many cannot afford it because of economic recessions. Boeing is lobbying hard for F-15 orders from Greece and Israel, which could blunt the impact of any job cuts.

AIRTOUCH: Vodafone Bid Wins

Continued from Page 1

yen makes exports more expensive, hurting Japanese companies' international competitiveness.

Private economists say all, not just two-thirds, of the government's projected growth could disappear if the yen rose as much as 10 percent, and they take a much dimmer view of the economy for this year than the government does.

"We are going to face a very, very hard landing," said a central bank official who asked not to be identified. "We are at wits' end — at the moment of final reckoning."

The rise in long-term bond yields, which nearly doubled late last year to more than 2 percent in just a couple of months, is also disturbing many investors.

Some rough estimates show that an increase of one percentage point in interest rates takes away about 0.3 percentage point in economic growth. At the same time, stocks remain sluggish.

The Nikkei index of 223 issues, which rose just 5 percent in 1998, is down about 0.7 percent this year.

"There are real risks here because the financial markets have moved in an adverse direction," said Jeffrey Young, an economist with Salomon Brothers in Tokyo. "Equity markets, the bond markets and the yen have all moved negatively for the Japanese economy."

And yet there have been confusing signals from government officials. While some are alarmed that the strength of the yen will make exports uncompetitive, others have suggested that the recent strength is acceptable.

"It doesn't make sense as a policy stance to be in favor of the yen at these levels," said Richard Jerram, an economist with ING Barings Securities (Japan) Ltd.

Months ago, Japan worried about trade frictions with the United States if Japanese exports continued to surge.

And because Japanese exports tend to crowd out exports from other Asian countries, the yen also threatened to scuttle the export-driven rebound of other Asian economies, particularly South Korea, Thailand and Indonesia.

Japan did not want to be blamed for setting off a round of competitive devaluations that could ultimately erode profits everywhere in the region.

But the yen began to rally strongly in October. Long-term rates jumped in late December after Japan said it would curb the amount of public money used to absorb government bonds, and they jumped further when Masaru Hayami, governor of the Bank of Japan, suggested that he believed the central bank was holding too many government bonds.

Moreover, Japan's ballooning budget deficit and the government's growing debt burden, which are the costs of stim-

ulus packages, are attracting many customers outside Britain are largely in Northern Europe, including Sweden, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

AirTouch's European operations are mainly in the southern part of the Continent, including Italy, Spain and Portugal. In all, international wireless services make up 57 percent of AirTouch's operating income, according to Deutsche Bank Research. The two companies compete in Germany and are partners in ventures in both Sweden and Egypt.

Until now Vodafone had shunned the U.S. market. In fact, the company had been in talks with AirTouch about acquiring its European assets. Since splitting from Racial Electronics, a maker of telecommunications gear and military electronics, in 1988, Vodafone has grown into Britain's largest wireless carrier, with almost 5 million customers.

Many customers are attracted to Vodafone's prices. In the last quarter of 1998, the company added more than 930,000 customers, mostly on the attraction of a plan that allows users to pay as they call, rather than sign a long contract.

Other companies had expressed interest in AirTouch, including MCI WorldCom Inc., which talked to the company but did not make a formal offer.

Beijing Warns on Tax

BEIJING (AFP) — Tax authorities plan to crack down on high-income earners in China, including sports stars, lawyers and accountants, reports said Sunday.

"Almost all of China's certified public accountants, lawyers and sports stars are in the high-income ranks," Sun Ruihao, a tax official, told the China Daily Business Weekly, "but supervision of their income channels has been inefficient and resulted in income tax losses."

Beijing plans to invest in computer networks for the tax bureau and banks to supervise the incomes of individuals and companies.

Defense Merger Looms

LONDON (AFP) — A merger between British Aerospace PLC and GEC Marconi will be announced this week, The Sunday Telegraph reported.

The newspaper said Thomson CSF, the French defense and electronics company, seen as a strong candidate to merge with GEC Marconi, had lost out in the bidding war. The report said the merged company would invite DaimlerChrysler Aerospace AG to join it in a three-way arrangement as soon as practicable.

LVMH Fastens Grip on Gucci By Raising Stake to 26.7%

Continued from Page 1

PARIS — LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA, the world's No. 1 luxury-goods maker, has raised its stake in Gucci Group NV to 26.7 percent, strengthening its influence over the Italian company and providing a platform from which to make an eventual takeover offer.

An LVMH representative said over the weekend that the company was not planning a full-blown takeover bid for Gucci but said the company did not rule out buying more Gucci shares.

The situation was bound to leave investors baffled, as they have been in recent days about what appear to be a cat-and-mouse game between Gucci and the powerful French group.

LVMH fueled feverish speculation in Gucci stock Jan. 6 when it announced that it had taken a stake of more than 5 percent in the Milan-based company.

Investors said they believed LVMH began amassing Gucci stock in December with a view to adding the prestigious Italian brand to a rich portfolio that includes the Christian Dior and Givenchy couture houses.

Expectations of a bid rose Tuesday when LVMH said it was buying an additional 9.5 percent holding in Gucci from Prada, an Italian design house.

But the company turned around the next day and said it had no plan "under the current circumstances" to tender a full bid.

"Ours is not a hostile approach,"

LVMH said, adding that it was keeping all its options open. "We have nothing against Gucci or its management."

LVMH submitted a statement of its intentions Friday to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, as it was required to do because of Gucci's listing in New York. But the company did not disclose the contents of the filing, which are not yet public.

LVMH's chairman, Bernard Arnault, who not only runs the company but is also its controlling shareholder, has a history of acquiring companies over the objections of their owners.

But he is also viewed with respect in the fashion industry as someone who encourages talent and creativity.

Mr. Arnault's interest in Gucci, known for its handbags, scarves and watches, was welcomed by investors as a sign that LVMH was returning to luxury goods after an ill-fated retailing venture.

In 1997, Mr. Arnault took over San Francisco-based Duty Free Stores, a chain of luxury stores, which bolstered its exposure to Asia just as the region's economy sank into deep trouble.

But a hostile bid for Gucci would risk alienating Gucci's chairman, Domenico De Sole, and the creative director, Tom Ford, the two men credited with restoring the company to health after its near-collapse in the 1980s, analysts say.

Last week, Mr. Arnault said the Gucci team had nothing to fear from his presence. "Our entry into Gucci's capital is a sign of LVMH's confidence in



Mr. Arnault has a history of buying firms despite the owners' objections.

Gucci, its managers and its designer," he told the newspaper *Le Monde*.

"We believe LVMH could be content with a significant minority stake in Gucci and seek 'economies of scale' through cooperative agreements with both Gucci and Prada," said Cedric Magnolia, an analyst at CSFB in London.

Based on Friday's closing price on the New York Stock Exchange of \$72.625, up 62.5 cents, Gucci's shares outstanding are valued at a total of \$4.2 billion — compared with \$3.2 billion early this month, before LVMH said it had lifted its stake above 5 percent.

LVMH's shares rose 11 euros Friday to close at 209 (\$241.56). (Reuters, Bloomberg)

Long-Term Capital Prepares to Seek New Funds

Bloomberg News

NEW YORK — Partners at Long-Term Capital Management LP, the hedge fund that was taken over by 14 banks after losing more than \$4 billion, are meeting with lenders, investors and regulators to explain their losses and pave the way for raising new money, people familiar with the fund said over the weekend.

The partners, led by John Meriwether, a former vice chairman of Salomon Inc., have spoken to about 20 institutions in Europe and the United States and will hold similar meetings in Asia. The group, which provided few details of its investment positions when it was profitable, is offering a 40-page presentation that includes details on how it lost money and explains how much it had borrowed to take positions in bond markets worldwide.

Mr. Meriwether and his partners also

are holding the meetings to help reward their reputations for the day when they try to raise money to pay back their rescuers, said an investor who met with the traders last week.

The 14 banks, including Goldman Sachs Group LP and Merrill Lynch & Co., bought 90 percent of Long-Term Capital for \$3.6 billion in September with the agreement they would keep their money in the fund for no more than three years. Goldman Sachs has spoken with at least two investors, Warren Buffett and Prince Walid bin Talal of Saudi Arabia, about buying the fund's assets.

Partners could ensure their control of the firm by purchasing the rights they gave the banks to buy 50 percent of the management company that runs Long-Term Capital for \$1, according to the *Financial Times*, which reported the investors' meetings in its Saturday edition. The banks gained that right when they

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(Continued)

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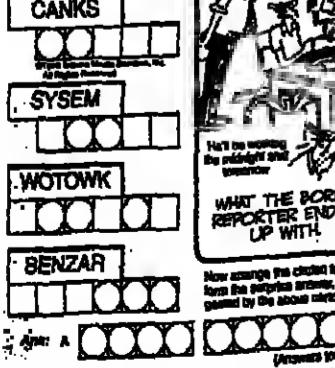


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SPORTS

In Spurned Swedish City, Disgust Over IOC Greed

Quebec, Too, Feels It Was Bilked on Bid

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

OSTERSUND, Sweden — Here in the austere frozen landscape of central Sweden, local residents still shake their heads in amazement at the brazen display of graft and greed shown by some International Olympic Committee delegates who came here to review the small city's bid to be host of the 2002 Winter Games.

Thor Eric Nilsson, sports editor for Ostersund's main newspaper, recalls how one delegate, after being loaned a new Saab to tour downhill skiing sites 100 kilometers (60 miles) away, balked at returning the keys. The delegate said he thought it was clearly understood he would be allowed to keep the automobile.

Bjorn Folin, press director for the Swedish Olympic Committee, remembers being nagged by another official who wrote him several letters asking about his prospects of getting a new Volvo since he was inclined to give "favorable consideration" to Ostersund's Olympic bid.

Then there were several "agents" who presented themselves as intermediaries capable of delivering a block of votes for the right amount of money. "I told them all that their requests surpassed our entire marketing budget, and that even if we could afford it, we would not pay," said Christer Persson, the committee's president. "They looked at me as if I were crazy."

The Swedish officials said they could not recall the names of the IOC delegates who solicited the favors, and insisted that all requests for favors were rebuffed. But their claims provide further evidence that bribe solicitation by IOC officials was not limited to Salt Lake City, whose bid for the 2002 Games has been implicated in a deepening corruption scandal.

Following the scandal surrounding Salt Lake City, the mood of disappointment in Sweden turned to outrage.

Like an athlete who lost a gold medal to a rival pumped up on steroids, Ostersund officials believe they were cheated because the town could not afford to buy votes with the kind of lavish gifts and other benefits that have become commonplace in Olympic bidding wars.

"The Olympic movement is supposed to stand firm against all forms of cheating and doping," said Gunnar Lindberg, general secretary of the Swedish Olympic Committee and one of the 114 IOC members. "It does not look good if the Olympic authorities engage in the same kind of bad behavior."

The IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, has said that nine committee delegates face possible expulsion for

"serious" offenses in the Salt Lake City bribery scandal and that four others face minor charges. He said the IOC had demanded that all 13 members provide written explanations for their behavior by Tuesday.

Olympic sources have identified 10 of the 13 IOC members implicated for allegedly taking cash bribes, scholarships, free medical care or other inducements from Salt Lake officials. They are: Jean-Claude Ganga of Republic of Congo, Vitali Smirnov of Russia, Charles Mukora of Kenya, David Silukumi Sibande of Swaziland, Bashir Mohammed Attarabuli of Libya, Lamine Keita of Mali, Sergio Santander Fantini of Chile, Agustin Carlos Arroyo of Ecuador, Anton Geesink of the Netherlands and Pipo Haegeman of Finland.

Steven Pearlstein of *The Washington Post* reported from Quebec:

Quebecers may never know whether it was legal activities, outright bribes or perhaps simply the arcane internal politics of the IOC that finally delivered the 2002 Winter Games to Salt Lake City.

But the Quebec committee says it deserved more than the seven votes the city finally received. And with each day bringing fresh allegations of corruption in the Olympic bidding process, Quebecers are responding with a mixture of anger, disillusionment and embarrassment for being so naive.

"We feel we've been had," said Jean-Paul L'Allier, the mayor of Quebec City. L'Allier said he will appeal to the honor of the Olympic movement to get back the \$8 million (12 million Canadian dollars) that Quebec spent trying to land the 2002 Olympics, not to repay the taxpayers and corporate sponsors but for the continued development of amateur athletics in the region.

Feeling that, L'Allier and other officials here have threatened to take the IOC to court to get Quebec's money back.

"They owe us \$2 million," said Jean Grenier, the man who brought short-track speedskating to the Olympics and was the guiding hand in the Quebec 2002 committee. "They impressed upon us many times, and at great length, that they had tough new rules and that they would be enforced. And now we know that they were not."

On talk radio, in the newspapers and at the Quebec City Council, there also have been calls for the immediate resignation of Samaranch and a wholesale revamping of the way Olympic host cities are chosen.

"Samaranch has to take responsibility for the dishonor brought onto the Olympic movement during his time," said René Paquet, a prominent lawyer and Quebec businessman who once headed the Canadian Ski Federation.



The Sabres' Alexei Zhitnik, left, lifting the Senators' Radek Bonk off the ice with a knee to the midsection. No penalty was called on the play.

Roy Stops the Blues Cold

Avalanche Goaltender Gets 44th Career Shutout

The Associated Press

Patrick Roy got his 44th career shutout — and his third in the season against St. Louis — as the Colorado Avalanche beat the Blues, 2-0, in Denver.

Roy, who had not blanked St. Louis before this season, made 28 saves Saturday to extend his shutout streak over

NHL RUNDOWN

the Blues to 204 minutes, 7 seconds. Roy's dominance spoiled a solid effort by Grant Fuhr, who made 17 saves for St. Louis. Aaron Miller had a first-period goal, and Valeri Kamensky added the game-clincher with 1:25 remaining for the Avalanche.

Bruins 2, Lightning 2 Chris Gratton scored with just over five minutes left in regulation play as struggling Tampa Bay halted a seven-game losing streak with a tie against the Bruins in Boston.

Maple Leafs 4, Flyers 0 Steve Sullivan scored two goals and Derek King added the game-winner as visiting Toronto halted Philadelphia's 15-game unbeaten streak. Eric Lindros and John LeClair each had a goal and an assist for the Flyers.

Canadiens 3, Rangers 0 Jeff Hackett made 17 saves for his second consecutive shutout and Vladimir Malakhov and Brian Savage scored power-play goals as host Montreal beat New York. Vincent Damphousse had the other goal for the Canadiens.

Panthers 3, Sharks 3 Patrick Marleau scored on a rebound shot with one second left in regulation as host San Jose rallied to tie Calgary. Owen Nolan scored two goals for San Jose, but they were offset by Theodore Fleury's two for Calgary.

their last 10. Ciccarelli, who has missed 33 games because of back injuries, scored his sixth goal in just his seventh game to reach 1,200 career points. Ciccarelli, 38, has 608 goals and 592 assists.

Capitals 3, Hurricanes 2 Keith Miller got his first goal of the season nine seconds into overtime to lift visiting Washington over Carolina. Peter Bondra and Brian Bellows added goals for the Capitals. Keith Primeau had his team-leading 21st goal and added an assist for Carolina.

Sabres 1, Senators 1 Dominik Hasek made 38 saves, including 13 in the third period, as Buffalo tied host Ottawa. Alexei Zhitnik opened the scoring on the game's first shot at 2:31 to give Buffalo the lead. The Senators' Alexei Yashin extended his point streak to 11 games when he tied the game in the second period.

Red Wings 2, Canucks 2 Chris Osgood extended his overtime shutout streak to 31 games as visiting Detroit tied Vancouver. Darren McCarty scored 6:43 into the third period to secure the tie for the Red Wings.

Penguins 5, Kings 1 Ian Moran and Jaromir Jagr opened the scoring with goals 51 seconds apart midway through the first period as Pittsburgh beat host Los Angeles. Robert Lang and Kevin Hatcher had power-play goals, and Jan Hritna scored against Jamie Storr, the Kings' goalie. Gary Galley had the Kings' only goal.

Flyers 3, Sharks 3 Patrick Marleau scored on a rebound shot with one second left in regulation as host San Jose rallied to tie Calgary. Owen Nolan scored two goals for San Jose, but they were offset by Theodore Fleury's two for Calgary.

Discontent, No Boycott, Over Korda's Presence

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

MELBOURNE — Despite rumblings in the last two weeks, there will be no player boycott of the Australian Open over an appeals committee's decision to rescind Petr Korda's one-year ban for testing positive for the steroid nandrolone.

The men who traveled to Melbourne to compete in the year's first major tennis event will compete as planned when play begins Monday. But after a mandatory

THE AUSTRALIAN OPEN

ATP Tour meeting here Saturday in which tennis' drug-testing procedures were outlined and debated, several of Korda's peers remained displeased that he will have the opportunity to defend his first and only Grand Slam singles title.

"In light of the circumstances, Petr is going to play," said Jim Courier, a Florida and the former No. 1 player in the world. "Am I happy about it? No. I think it reflects poorly on us and our sport."

"A lot of the players are upset," said the American player Alex O'Brien, "because they want to know how this got in Korda's body, and he hasn't explained how. I feel if he can't explain why, he shouldn't be playing."

Korda, the 30-year-old Czech ranked

21st in the world, attended the meeting, an annual gathering that addressed a range of topics and was scheduled long before his positive test was announced in December. But Korda chose not to speak at the meeting, even after one player asked him to explain himself. When Korda left the conference room flanked by three security guards, he walked through a large gathering of reporters and television crews without commenting.

"I think most of the players in that room understand that this case is still in litigation," said Mark Miles, the chief executive officer of the ATP Tour, who interceded on Korda's behalf during the meeting and made it clear that the Czech was not required to speak.

"I think it would be a mistake for all of us to try to case while it is being tried in the courts," Miles added. "We think it's right to wait for the process to follow its course."

Todd Martin, the president of the ATP Tour player council, said, "It would be terribly unfair if Petr is not allowed to play and in the end he's innocent."

Korda's case is still in the courts because the International Tennis Federation has asked the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Lausanne, Switzerland, to overturn the ruling of an independent appeals committee appointed by the international federation. That committee, composed of three Britons, ruled Dec. 22 that the one-year ban for players who test positive for Class I substances should not be applied be-

cause "exceptional circumstances" existed in Korda's case. Instead, it reduced the penalty to loss of ranking points and prize money at Wimbledon, the tournament where Korda tested positive.

"We are convinced the appeals committee misapplied the rule," said a spokesman for the International Tennis Federation, Alun James.

Korda and his lawyers are now attempting to block the federation's appeal in the High Court in London, arguing that the federation has no grounds to appeal the decision of an appeals committee it appoints. If the High Court rules in Korda's favor, James said the case will stop there. If the High Court rules in the international federation's favor, the court of arbitration is required to render a decision by no later than May 8.

According to the ATP's chief operating officer, Larry Scott, when the Spanish player Ignacio Trujillo was suspended for one year for testing positive for a Class I performance-enhancing substance in January 1997, the appeals committee did not have the option of reducing penalties. But tennis changed its policy in March 1998 because, according to Miles, officials from the International Tennis Federation and Women's Tennis Association wanted to make the court of arbitration the ultimate arbiter to avoid multiyear legal battles.

Miles said the court of arbitration wants drug programs to be able "to consider circumstances." Hence the need to allow room for leniency in exceptional situations that Miles said could include sabotage of a player's drug sample or the administering of banned substances without the player's knowledge during an emergency medical procedure.

But the clause dealing with exceptional circumstances in the International Tennis Federation's bylaws is worded much more generally. It states that a player needs to establish "on the balance of probabilities" that exceptional circumstances exist. It also states that "exceptional circumstances shall mean circumstances where the player did not know that he had taken, or been administered, the relevant substance, provided that he acted reasonably in all the relevant circumstances."

Korda has said he has no idea how he absorbed nandrolone.

"Perhaps we need to tighten up the wording," Brian Tobin, president of the International Tennis Federation said Sunday.

The committee wrote that it accepted Korda's "evidence that he did not knowingly take" or have administered to him a prohibited substance. It also ruled that he "acted reasonably" as well as "ingeniously in all the relevant circumstances."

"What needs to be changed now is the loophole," Courier said. "For me, a player is responsible for his body and what's in it."

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SPORTS

Tyson Struggles to Beat Botha**Ex-Champion, Losing on Points, Lands the Big One in Round 5**By William Gildea
Washington Post Service

LAS VEGAS — Mike Tyson proved he still has devastating punching power. But he needed it because Francois Botha weighed him up and built a lead before Tyson finally connected for a knockout.

The former heavyweight champion, who had missed more than he landed, struck with a short, powerful right hand that dropped Botha in the final seconds of the fifth round on Saturday night at MGM Grand Garden. As Botha struggled to get to his feet, referee Richard Steele counted him out and waved the fight finished while Botha staggered backward and fell into the ropes.

Botha's demise came at 2 minutes 59 seconds of the round after the South African did his best to distract Tyson with rough tactics and tanning — and had built a lopsided lead on all three judges' scorecards. Tyson found himself hard-pressed in a performance that disappointed his fans. He, too, was guilty of fouling, especially at the bell ending the first round when he touched off a scuffle that almost brought a premature end to the fight.

A mace erupted as the two fighters battled for about 30 seconds past the bell after Tyson appeared to attempt to bend Botha's arm back as Botha was leaning his full 233 pounds (105 kilograms) into him in a corner. Botha added punches and shoves. But Steele gained control and separated the fighters. More than one minute elapsed before the start of the second round as security men, who had rushed into the ring, had to be cleared.

When the fight resumed, Botha continued to build his lead up to the final seconds of the fifth round. He showed no fear of Tyson and even laughed at him. Tyson, though trying to apply the sound boxing tactics advocated by his trainer, Tommy Brooks, mounted little offense and missed repeatedly with

haymakers. At one point there was laughter from the crowd as he missed.

Botha laughed just a bit too soon because, shortly thereafter, Tyson knocked him into a cold haze beneath the scalding ring lights. With that one punch, the 32-year-old Tyson demonstrated the power he did in his 1980s prime — and on the four outclassed foes he fought in 1995 and 1996 after coming out of prison but before he lost twice to Evander Holyfield. However, this was anything but an easy fight for Tyson. Tyson's struggle suggested that he has a long way to go to recapture past glory.

Botha showed that fighters, especially better ones with more speed, may no longer fear Tyson the way they once did. The crowd of about 11,500, which included Muhammad Ali, began to sense the roughness of the fight as Tyson pushed Botha in the face in the second round and had one point taken away by Steele. Later in the round, Botha hit Tyson after Tyson missed and had swum himself into a circle. As Tyson bobbed up and turned, Botha belted him.

Botha landed a hard right to Tyson's head in the first minute of the fourth round, knocking Tyson backward. Tyson rallied with lefts later in the round but not enough in any judge's opinion to carry the round. After four rounds, Botha was winning on a shutout on two cards, 40-35, while the third judge had the second round even after the point deduction and the fight scored 39-36.

"I'm very nasty," Tyson said afterward. He said Botha was trying to goad him into an incident. "I was," Botha said.

Brooks said: "Mike was a little off. We're not going to rush him."

The best thing that can be said of the bout was that Steele was able to stop the brawl after the first round so that the fight could continue. It took all of Steele's strength to succeed as Botha held and swung furiously and Tyson tried

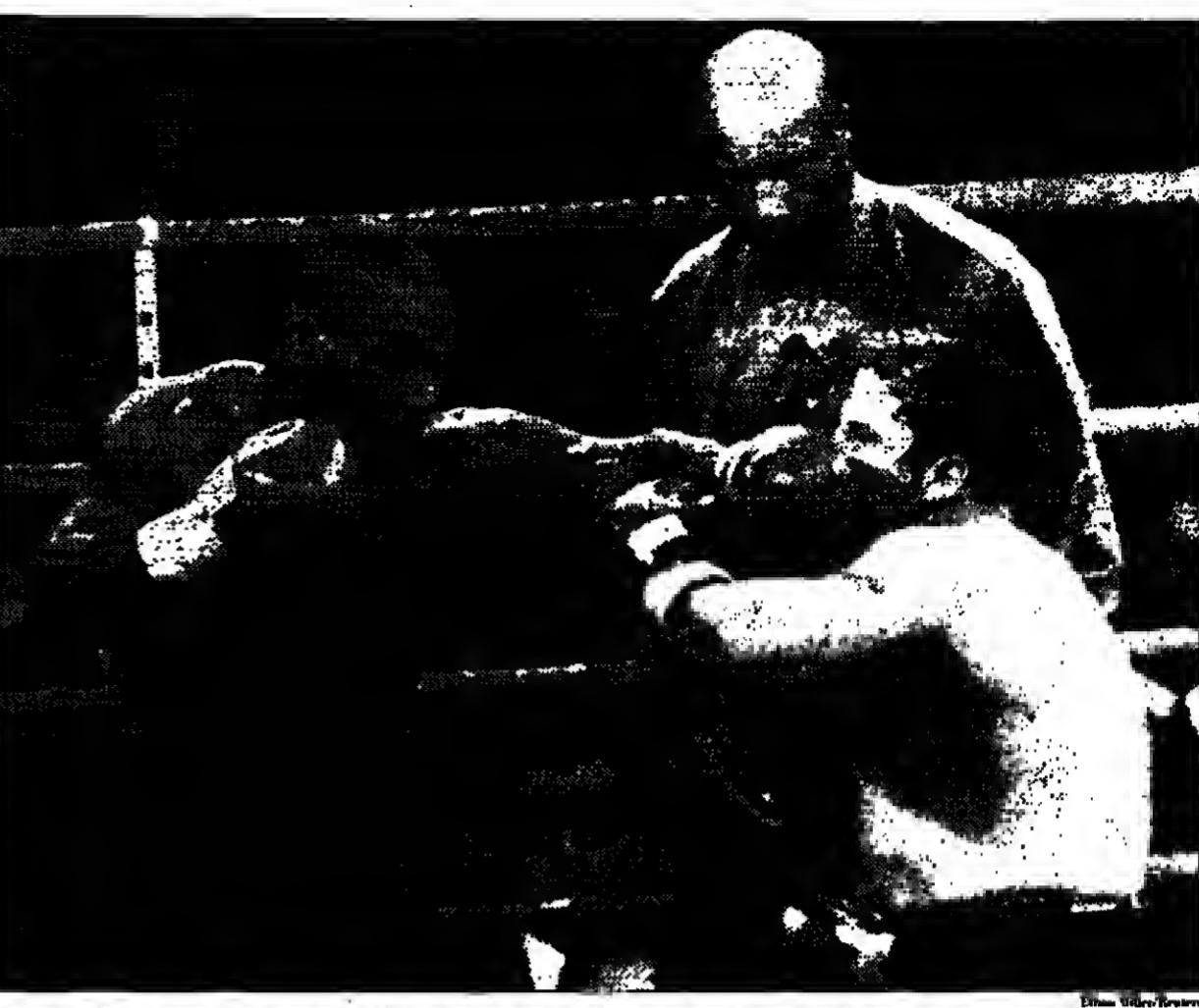
to get his hands free to swing back. That's when security men jumped into the ring and police leaped to the ring apron and stood elbow to elbow to keep anyone but security people from the ring.

The fight belied the expressions of the two fighters as they made their entrances to the arena. Botha made his long walk to the ring looking less than confident and highly edgy, wrapped in an alleged buffalo hide. Tyson approached slowly, with a scowl. His head was covered by a Muslim skullcap. It was Tyson's first fight since biting Holyfield's ear 19 months ago in their second fight. As a result, Tyson's license was suspended. It was reinstated in October by Nevada following a psychiatric examination. In the interim, Tyson fired his manager, John Horne, and his promoter, Don King, setting off legal battles with both. Tyson also faces sentencing Feb. 5 in Montgomery County, Maryland, on misdemeanor assault charges to which he pleaded no-contest.

His behavior leading up to the bout suggested he was under extreme pressure or some kind of emotional overload. Anger and profanity characterized many of his interviews. With no one to supply prefight hype, the event's backers let Tyson carry the load. Whereas he had been relaxed during low-key conversations with reporters at his training camp in Phoenix, Arizona, Tyson lost his temper repeatedly and made a number of offensive remarks during other interviews.

"I put people in body bags when I'm right," he said during a stop in Los Angeles to announce the fight.

Had Botha not been as slow as he was, Tyson appeared headed toward a defeat by decision. Instead, Saturday night was the first time Tyson ever had come back to win after training in a fight. He is expected to fight again here on April 24, possibly against Axel Schnitz.



Tyson jabbing at Francois Botha in the fifth round, with referee Richard Steele, who stopped the fight, hovering.

Davenport Beats Hingis in Sydney, 6-4, 6-3

The Associated Press

SYDNEY — Lindsay Davenport beat Martina Hingis for the first time since overtaking the Swiss star for the No. 1 ranking, winning the women's final of the Adidas International tournament, 6-4, 6-3.

In the men's final, Todd Martin of the United States, the No. 8 seed, set his sights on a Grand Slam breakthrough after beating the top seed, the No. 3-ranked Alex Corretja, in straight sets.

Hingis had won the only two matches between the world's best women since the American took the top spot Oct. 12 last year. But on Saturday, Davenport repeated her straight-set victory in the U.S. Open final in September, leaving her 4-3 in their seven finals meetings in the past 14 months.

Davenport said she looked forward to a rematch at the Australian Open, which starts Monday.

Hingis struggled in oppressive heat and was in trouble from the start.

Martin won 6-3, 7-6 (7-5) for only his eighth title in a pro career stretching back to 1990. Ranked No. 16, he's besting Grand Slam performance was losing the 1994 Australian Open final to Pete Sampras, who will miss the tournament this year because of fatigue.

Martin, who won the Adidas International in 1996, has reached the semifinal stage just four times in 26 Grand Slam appearances.

Meanwhile, in Melbourne on Saturday, Thomas Enqvist stamped his claim as an underdog threat for the Australian Open title by winning the

Colonial Classic, defeating the defending champion, Mark Philippoussis, 6-4, 6-1.

In working to a 5-4 lead in the first set, Enqvist dropped only four points on serve. Philippoussis, on his serve, dropped just two. Philippoussis then held off two set points with aces, one of them on a second serve. But Enqvist put away his third chance with a sizzling return.

That seemed to knock the fight out of Philippoussis, as Enqvist went on to claim seven straight games and a 5-0 lead in the second set.

Enqvist has now won eight of eight matches in 1999 in a confident buildup to the Australian Open, close to his best of 10 in succession toward the end of 1996.

SCOREBOARD**ICE HOCKEY****NHL STANDINGS**

EASTERN CONFERENCE		ATLANTIC DIVISION	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	22	10	10	32	40	64	250	271
New Jersey	22	12	7	27	32	62	252	270
NY Rangers	17	19	7	41	112	53	250	270
NY Islanders	12	28	3	29	99	52	250	270

NORTHEAST DIVISION		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Bruins	25	15	3	33	40	140	250	270
Devils	23	13	6	32	120	124	250	270
Islanders	22	12	7	51	124	122	250	270
Islanders (cont'd)	19	22	4	25	95	122	250	270

SOUTHEAST DIVISION		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Islanders	20	17	4	21	72	112	250	270
Islanders (cont'd)	19	18	4	21	71	112	250	270
Islanders (cont'd)	19	18	4	21	71	112	250	270
Islanders (cont'd)	19	18	4	21	71	112	250	270

CENTRAL DIVISION		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Wild	27	7	6	12	54	250	270
Wild (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270
Wild (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270
Wild (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270

WESTERN CONFERENCE		CENTRAL DIVISION	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Wild	27	7	6	12	54	250	270	270
Wild (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270	270
Wild (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270	270
Wild (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270	270

PACIFIC DIVISION		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Islanders	27	7	6	12	54	250	270
Islanders (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270
Islanders (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270
Islanders (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270

PACIFIC DIVISION		W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Islanders	27	7	6	12	54	250	270
Islanders (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270
Islanders (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270
Islanders (cont'd)	27	7	6	12	54	250	270

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Els Captures Title

GOLF Ernie Els shot a final round 68 for a 15-under total of 273 Sunday to win the South African PGA Championship and break a 10-month winless stretch.

Afterward, the South African stood at the back of the 18th green at Houghton Golf Club in Johannesburg with the Alfred Dunhill PGA trophy in one hand and a cellular phone in the other. President Nelson Mandela was on the line, and Els was speechless.

"I just listened," Els recounted of the call. "What do you say to a great man like that?"

Els, who also won the title in 1992 and 1995, had a 4-shot margin on Richard Kaplan in the \$655,000 tournament.

The two-time U.S. Open winner, who had held a 2-shot edge on the home-course professional, Kaplan, going into the final round, had birdies on Nos. 1, 3 and 5 and then added another at the par-5 16th to clinch the victory after Kaplan had missed his birdie putt on the 15th.

Kaplan, also of South Africa, held on for second, finishing 3 shots clear of Jeev Milkha Singh of India, David Frost of South Africa, Stephen Leaney of Australia and Steve Webster of England, who all shared third place. (AP)

Nagano Courted the IOC

OLYMPICS The committee that successfully bid for the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics spent an average of nearly \$22,000 on each of 62 visiting International Olympic Committee members, according to a report by the nationwide Mainichi newspaper.

The report came in the wake of admissions last week by a senior official of the Nagano bid committee that accounting records dealing with the bid had been destroyed.

The newspaper said the Nagano bid committee spent an estimated average of \$21,905 per visiting IOC member as part of its "negotiations," citing committee documents and unnamed former officials.

Eight officials suspected of involvement with the Salt Lake City bribery scandal were among the dozens of IOC members treated to such perks as first-class airfare to Japan, all-expenses-paid stays at hot-spring resorts and helicopter tours, the paper said. (AP)

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Klinsmann Calls It Quits

SOCCER The former captain of the German national team, Jürgen Klinsmann, 34, has decided not to resume his career in the United States and has retired.

"I toyed with the idea and I collected information about Major League Soccer, but I've decided to retire for good," Klinsmann told the German sports-newspaper SID on Sunday from his home in Los Angeles. (AP)

Batistuta's Hat Trick Overwhelms Cagliari

Fiorentina Regains No. 1 Spot in League

The Associated Press

ROME — Gabriel Batistuta's hat trick, with two of the goals in the final 12 minutes Sunday, rallied Fiorentina past Cagliari, 4-2, and put the team back on top of the Serie A standings.

The Argentine star scored the game's first goal after seven minutes and then tallied in the 78th and the final minutes to

EUROPEAN SOCCER

take his league-leading total to 17 goals in 17 games. Batistuta is now back on track to break the record of 33 in a 34-game season.

Cagliari had taken a 2-1 lead on Tiziano De Patro's header in the 58th, but Edmundo hit the equalizer in the 76th for Fiorentina, which improved its home record to a perfect 9-0-0.

Fiorentina is 11-2-4 overall for 35 points.

AC Milan moved up to third place, with 30 points, by beating visiting Perugia, 2-1, in a game with some odd twists. The start was delayed 10 minutes because someone slashed the tires on the Perugia team bus and the players had to take taxis to San Siro Stadium.

Milan went ahead 2-0 on headers three minutes apart by the Argentine striker Guly and the German forward Oliver Bierhoff. Perugia cut the deficit on Hidetoshi Nakata's late penalty kick, which was followed by a fight among players on the field. Milan's goalkeeper, Sebastiano Rossi, was ejected for hitting Perugia's striker Cristian Bucchi.

AS Roma is fifth after routing Vicenza, 3-0, to snap a four-game winless skid, while Internazionale of Milan slid to sixth, barely putting up a fight in a 2-0 loss at Bologna.

Juveotus of Turin, the two-time defending champion, may have hit the low

point of its disappointing season, playing to a 1-1 draw at Venezia, which is at the bottom of the standings. Juventus is 11 points behind Fiorentina and ranks ninth among the 18 teams in the league.

In other games Sunday, Gaetano De Rossa and Davide Olivares each hit their first career goals as Bari beat Sampdoria of Genoa, 3-1; Salernitana and Piacenza drew, 1-1; and Udinese and Empoli played to a 0-0 draw.

ENGLAND Martin Pringle, a substitute, scored three minutes into injury time Sunday to salvage a 2-2 draw for Charlton against visiting Newcastle.

The late goal, with Newcastle playing a man short, came just seconds after Mark Bright appeared to have scored the equalizer on a shot that looked on television replays as if it had crossed the line.

Temuri Ketsbaia gave Newcastle a 1-0 lead in the 13th minute. Ketsbaia got control of the ball at midfield, as Newcastle defender broke up a mounting Charlene attack, and dribbled unmet to fire it in a blistering 27-meter (30-yard) strike that beat Charlton's goalkeeper, Simon Royce, to his right.

Nolberto Solano of Peru made it 2-0 in the 55th minute before Bright scored for Charlton in the 64th. Newcastle played the last 13 minutes with 10 players when Nikola Dabizas was ejected in the 77th on his second yellow card.

The draw left Rund Gullit's Newcastle club in 14th place with 25 points, far off the pace of league-leading Chelsea (43), Manchester (41), Astur Villa (40) and defending champion Arsenal (39). Charlton has only 17 points but ended its run of eight straight losses in the league.

SPAIN Fernando Morientes scored a pair of second-half goals Sunday to lead



Fabian O'Neill scoring for Cagliari on Sunday against Fiorentina.

Real Madrid to a 4-2 victory over Atlético de Madrid in Spanish first-division soccer.

The cross-town rivals squared off in Real's Santiago Bernabéu stadium a day after Celta ousted Mallorca from first place, also by a score of 4-2, in a showdown between the two surprise contenders of the season.

In the 18th week of the season, Real Madrid vaulted from sixth to third place with 31 points, and continues a dry spell of more than six years in which Atlético has failed to win at Santiago Bernabéu.

FC Barcelona was playing in Seville later Sunday against Betis.

With Real Madrid up 3-1 late in the second half Atlético refused to give up,

scoring in the 85th minute on a goal by Fernando Correa. But six minutes later Morientes added his second goal of the day to clinch the victory.

Real Madrid got on the board first in the 21st minute as Pepe Mijatović put away a ball that Atlético's goalkeeper, Jose Francisco Molina, stopped but failed to control after a shot by Davor Suker.

Atlético's Juninho answered in the first minute of the second half to make it 1-1 with a booming shot from 20 meters out. Morientes made it 2-1 with a header in the 76th minute after a centering pass by Christian Panucci.

Real's Ivan Campo scored in the 81st minute to increase Madrid's margin to 3-1.

LATEST SKI STAR FOR AUSTRIA TAKES SLALOM, HIS 3D VICTORY

The Associated Press

WENGEN, Switzerland — Austria's newest golden boy, Benjamin Raich, continued to glimmer Sunday, winning a slalom for the third victory of his rookie season on the World Cup ski circuit.

Raich suddenly developed his winning ways after the New Year, winning a night slalom and defeating his illustrious teammate, the double Olympic champion Hermann Maier, on home snow the first week from the Christmas holidays. Before then, Raich had just the eighth place from the opening giant slalom in Soelden, Austria, in October, show for his early-season efforts.

"You have to believe in the stars and you can win," Raich said. "It's also a question of attitude. Pressure is only as big as you let it be."

Raich's victory virtually guaranteed him a berth on the Austrian team in one of the technical events at the world championships in Vail, Colorado, which begin Jan. 30.

Raich displayed the steely nerve of a veteran, recording the fastest two-run aggregate time of 1 minute, 45.46 seconds, 0.10 second quicker than Michael von Gruenigen of Switzerland.

In his first year on the World Cup circuit, Raich stunned fans and racers alike, defeating the reigning World Cup champion, Maier, in a giant slalom Jan. 10 in Flachau, Austria — where Maier, known as the "Terminator," learned to ski — after winning a night slalom in Schladming, Austria, just three days before.

The winner of Saturday's downhill in Wengen, the 1996 overall World Cup champion, Lasse Kjus, placed third in the slalom, crossing in 1:41.94. The result gave the Norwegian the victory in the weekend's combined event.

■ NORWEGIAN POSTS FIRST VICTORY

Trine Bakke of Norway won her first World Cup victory Sunday, a slalom marked by several dropouts on the difficult Kandahar course in St. Anton, Austria. The Associated Press reported.

Bakke, whose previous best showing was second place in last year's slalom in Saalbach, Austria, twisted her way around the 46 gates down the steep and icy course in a two-run combined time of 1 minute, 22.84 seconds, beating Andi Persson of Sweden by 0.04 second.

The 17-year-old sensation Jana Kostelic of Croatia clocked the third-fastest time, 1:23.77.

Bakke, 24, was second in the first run, trailing Norway's Andrine Flemmen by 0.23 second. But Flemmen fell in the second, and Bakke had a brilliant second run. "It was a very hard and steep course," Bakke said. "It is great to know how it feels to win a race."

On Saturday, Corinne Rey-Bellet of Switzerland made World Cup history in St. Anton, becoming the first skier to win two races on the same day. Within four hours, she won a women's downhill and a super-G race, her first World Cup victories ever.

For Vikings or Falcons, a Rare Shot at Super Bowl

By Leonard Shapiro
Washington Post Service

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Vikings have not played host to a National Football Conference championship game since 1976, when Fran Tarkenton was scrambling his way into the Hall of Fame.

The Atlanta Falcons have never come this far since joining the league in 1966, with only seven winning seasons for a franchise better known for folly and frustration than the sweet satisfaction of a championship.

But two teams hardly considered Super Bowl contenders before the season began, on Sunday found themselves one victory away from advancing to Super Bowl XXXIII on Jan. 31 in Miami.

Left behind were Dallas, Green Bay and San Francisco, the dominant NFC teams of the '90s — at least one of them

played for the NFC title every year since 1992.

"This should be a great game as long as the public gets accustomed to the idea that Green Bay or Dallas or San Francisco is not playing," said the Minnesota head coach, Dennis Green. "These are two teams that weren't projected to be where we're at, but had the kind of record and consistency to be there."

"Those other teams are not what they once were," Green said.

The 16-1 Vikings, after a season that included a record-breaking 556 points and the emergence of the rookie receiver Randy Moss, were listed as an 11-point favorite over the 15-2 Falcons. It was the first time game matching teams that play their home games in domed stadiums.

Atlanta had a 10-game winning streak; the Vikings had won their past nine.

The Metrodome has been a huge advantage to Minnesota all season.

The Vikings won all eight of their regular season games in the building and beat the Cardinals there Jan. 10 to advance to the NFC championship. The hometown crowd and a sound system capable of wreaking havoc on the signals and collective psyches of their foes have benefited the Vikings all season.

On Thursday, NFL officials informed the Vikings that they were moving the speakers from the 25-yard lines to the 10-yard lines.

Still, the Falcons knew exactly what to expect.

"Our ability to handle that is going to be one of the real keys," Reeves said. "Our ability to focus and concentrate and not make the mental mistakes is going to be crucial. It's just as important as the X's and O's. We've got to deal with it."

"The more crucial the situation, the louder it will be," he said.



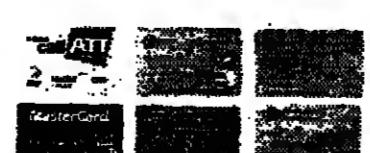
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